



**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

Review of the Australian Antarctic Territory

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 26 June 2012

Chair: Senator Louise Pratt

Australian Antarctic Division and DFAT to appear before the NCET Committee

12.30pm - 1.45pm, Wednesday, 27 June 2012

The **Australian Antarctic Division** and the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** will appear before the National Capital and External Territories Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday, **27 June 2012** from 12.30 to 1.45pm in **Committee Room 2S1**, Parliament House, Canberra.

This hearing will provide an opportunity for the Committee to examine issues surrounding the administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory and Australia's place within the Antarctic Treaty System

Committee Chair, Senator Louise Pratt, noted that the hearing came at a propitious moment, immediately following the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held in Hobart. "The Committee will have the opportunity to question Australia's lead Antarctic agencies in follow up to this important international forum in which Australia has always taken a leading role," she said.

The Committee will take the chance to look at such issues as Australia's Antarctic research, infrastructure and logistics capabilities; our role within the Antarctic Treaty System; and policy and program objectives in light of the recent budget. Other areas that the Committee may canvass include Antarctic tourism, the Southern Ocean and Antarctic bioprospecting.

Public Hearing Details

Committee:	Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Venue	Committee Room 2S1, Parliament House, Canberra
Date:	Wednesday, 27 June 2012
Time:	12.30 to 1.45pm
Webcast:	The hearing will be webcast live on http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair Senator Louise Pratt on 0448 264 129.

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

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