



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2018-19
Monday, 18 February 2019
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm.

The committee called:

- Department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian National Audit Office, Bureau of Meteorology, Snowy Hydro Limited, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Clean Energy Regulator, Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Director of National Parks.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Government's response to the recent Tasmanian bushfires;
- stakeholder engagement in relation to the review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act);
- issuing of export permits for 232 rare and endangered Australian birds between 2015 and November 2018;
- proposed runway near Davis research station in the Antarctic;
- progress update on the replacement Antarctic icebreaking vessel;
- whale conservation in the Southern Ocean;
- proposal for Australia's first offshore wind farm in Victoria;
- Australian National Audit Office report into the awarding of a \$443.3 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation;
- impact of extensions to the NSW and Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreements on threatened species;
- update on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's co-funding of projects under the partnership agreement;
- Australian Institute of Marine Science's Long-term Monitoring Program on the condition of the Great Barrier Reef;
- updated assessment of the conservation status of the Leadbeater's possum;
- oil and gas exclusion zone within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park;
- weed and pest management in the Kakadu National Park;
- setting of targets under the National Waste Policy;
- release of stormwater from Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal site into the adjacent Caley Valley wetlands; and
- national recovery plan for the Black-throated finch.

The committee will next meet at 9.00 am on Tuesday, 19 February 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- Department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Office of the eSafety Commissioner, NBN Co Limited, Australia Council and Screen Australia.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has been released from tomorrow's program due to unforeseen circumstances.