



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2018-19  
Monday, 22 October 2018  
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, Bureau of Meteorology, Snowy Hydro Ltd, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Climate Change Authority, Clean Energy Regulator, Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Director of National Parks.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- staffing numbers in the Department of the Environment and Energy;
- proposed changes to the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) state and territory operations;
- BOM's climate outlook for the upcoming fire season;
- assumptions underlying the projected costs of Snowy Hydro 2.0;
- estimated energy bills for Snowy Hydro Ltd's standing offers for residential customers;
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report in relation to the Paris Climate Accord;
- extent of aerial surveys undertaken by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to document the extent of coral bleaching;
- environmental approval process for the proposed runway near Davis research station in the Antarctic;
- costs associated with the replacement Antarctic icebreaking vessel;
- proposed Marine Protected Area in east Antarctica;
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation's mobilisation of private sector investment;
- Climate Change Authority's modelling on the economic impact of achieving emissions reduction targets;
- feasibility of extending the operational life of existing coal fired power stations;
- investigations into the viability of a second Bass Strait interconnector and potential pumped-hydro storage projects in Tasmania;
- update on carbon farming projects within the Kakadu National Park;
- current threats to Commonwealth national parks and conservation zones;
- projection of commercial advertising onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House;
- conservation status of the Leadbeater's possum;
- plans by the NSW Government to raise the wall of Warragamba Dam by 14 metres;
- research hubs funded under the National Environmental Research Program; and
- impact of the proposed Toondah Harbour development on the Moreton Bay wetlands.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Tuesday, 23 October 2018 in Senate Committee Room 2S3.