



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS**

PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4580 | Fax: (02) 6277 4424 | Email: [ccea.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ccea.reps@aph.gov.au) | [www.aph.gov.au/ccea](http://www.aph.gov.au/ccea)

8 June 2011

Ms Gail Spina  
Executive Officer  
Ecological Society of Australia

**By email to: [executiveofficer@ecolsoc.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@ecolsoc.org.au)**

Dear Ms Spina

**NEW INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is conducting an inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate, in relation to nationally important ecosystems.

The inquiry has been jointly referred by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, and the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon Greg Combet AM MP.

The Committee's terms of reference for the inquiry are attached.

The Committee welcomes your organisation's views on any or all of the terms of reference. The scope of the inquiry is to include some case studies of 'nationally important ecosystems', as defined by submissions to the inquiry. In making a submission, you are invited to give this matter particular attention.

You are also welcome to extend this invitation to any other individual or organisation who may wish to prepare a submission for the Committee's consideration.

Submissions should be emailed to [ccea.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ccea.reps@aph.gov.au) before **Friday, 29 July 2011**.

Please note that making a submission constitutes giving evidence and attracts parliamentary privilege. Once you have provided a submission to the Committee you cannot withdraw it or alter it without the Committee's permission. A submission should not be disclosed to any other person until its publication has been authorised by the Committee. When a submission has been formally authorised it will be published on the Committee's website.

Guidelines on making a submission – including details about parliamentary privilege and requests for confidentiality – are available online:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/documnts/howsub.htm>.

Further information about the inquiry and its conduct, including details of any scheduled public hearings, will be published on the Committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ccea/ccbio/index.htm>

If you have any questions about the inquiry, please contact the Inquiry Secretary, Julia Searle on (02) 6277 4589 or email the secretariat at [ccea.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ccea.reps@aph.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Morris', written in a cursive style.

Julia Morris  
Committee Secretary



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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate**

The Committee will inquire into and report on biodiversity in a changing climate, in relation to nationally important ecosystems. The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- terrestrial, marine and freshwater biodiversity in Australia and its territories t
- connectivity between ecosystems and across landscapes that may contribute c  
to biodiversity conservation
- how climate change impacts on biodiversity may flow on to affect human h  
communities and the economy
- strategies to enhance climate change adaptation, including promoting s  
resilience in ecosystems and human communities
- mechanisms to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and m  
ecosystem services in a changing climate
- an assessment of whether current governance arrangements are well placed a  
to deal with the challenges of conserving biodiversity in a changing climate
- mechanisms to enhance community engagement. m

The scope of the committee's inquiry shall include some case studies of 'nationally important ecosystems', as defined by submissions to the inquiry.