

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Budget Estimates, May 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: NWC

**Question No:** 110

**Topic:** Stakeholder forum and  
biennial assessment

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

1. Last estimates, you mentioned that you would be holding a stakeholder forum discussion in March. Did this go ahead, and can you provide me with some information on who attended? Was there an open invitation to attend to anyone who had submitted, or was the forum invitation only?
2. Is the Commission planning any further forums?
3. Can the Commission provide any information about when the third biennial assessment will be released?

**Answer:**

1. The Stakeholder Forum was held on March 16, 2011. Organisations represented at the National Water Commission's 2011 Stakeholder Forum included:
  - A3P (Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council)
  - Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering
  - Murrumbidgee Irrigation
  - Australian Bankers' Association
  - Australian National University
  - Australian Water Association
  - Barwon Water
  - Blue Sky Water Partners Pty Ltd
  - Bundaberg Regional Irrigation Group
  - Bureau of Meteorology
  - Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia
  - Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited
  - Cotton Australia Limited
  - CSIRO, Water for a Healthy Country
  - Environment Victoria
  - eWater CRC
  - First Peoples' Water Engagement Council
  - Geoscience Australia
  - GHD
  - Horticulture Australia Limited
  - International WaterCentre
  - IPART

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- Irrigation Australia Limited
- Lawlab World Wildlife Fund Australia
- Minerals Council of Australia
- National Association of Forest Industries
- National Farmers' Federation
- National Irrigators' Council
- Natural Resources Commission
- Northern Victorian Irrigators
- NSW Irrigators
- Ricegrowers' Association of Australia
- South Australia Water Corporation
- Southern Riverina Irrigators
- State Water (Dubbo, NSW)
- State Water (Parramatta, NSW)
- SunWater
- University of Adelaide - The Environment Institute
- University of New South Wales
- Uniwater
- Vegetables WA
- Waterfind
- Water Quality Research Australia
- Water Services Association of Australia
- Western Australian Farmers Federation

Invitations were issued to key water sector stakeholders. These included members of the Commission's Stakeholder Reference Group as well as some entities that had lodged public submissions.

2. No immediate plans.
3. The timing for the release of the 2011 Biennial Assessment has not yet been determined.