

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

4.78 The committee recommends that in all future negotiations for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas, the oil and gas industry be part of the process so that all stakeholders are fully aware of the range of issues that impact upon the marine environment.

Recommendation 2

4.104 The committee recommends that specific consideration be given to the level of capacity for coastal NRM groups and to the funding arrangements made available to NRM groups to assist in acquiring the necessary marine expertise.

Recommendation 3

5.76 The committee recommends that all governments give greater priority to Indigenous knowledge and participation in park management generally, and fire management in particular.

Recommendation 4

6.5 The committee recommends the implementation of all recommendations made in the 2004 Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References committee report *Turning back the tide – the invasive species challenge* that have not yet been addressed.

Recommendation 5

6.6 The committee recommends that the Government response to the 2004 Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References committee report *Turning back the tide – the invasive species challenge* be finalised.

Recommendation 6

7.27 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth, States and Territories boost the resilience of reserves against the effects of climate change by focussing on increasing their connectivity, so that they contain a continuum of different climatic zones, altitudes and ecosystem types.

Recommendation 7

9.48 The committee recommends that management plans clearly identify practical on-ground outcomes and that protected area agencies have in place comprehensive monitoring and evaluation programs to continually assess management effectiveness and the extent to which protected area values are being maintained.

Recommendation 8

9.89 The committee recommends that best practice preparation and revision of reserve management plans should ensure that stakeholders, are consulted at the commencement of planning processes, rather than beginning with seeking comment on draft plans.

Recommendation 9

9.113 The committee endorses the Gilligan report findings and recommends that the Commonwealth substantially increase funding to the Indigenous Protected Areas Programme, and that funding for this Programme also be provided by state and territory governments.

Recommendation 10

10.19 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government examine ways to encourage State and Territory Governments and their relevant agencies to engage more fully in programs that provide opportunities for recreational groups and users to contribute in positive ways to the conservation and maintenance of park resources.

Recommendation 11

10.20 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government examine ways to encourage State and Territory Governments and their agencies to work collaboratively with recreational groups to identify further opportunities for activities such as horse riding, mountain biking and four wheel driving, where these activities will not unduly impact on the environment.

Recommendation 12

11.48 The committee recommends that every jurisdiction implement, where appropriate, legislative or administrative reforms that ensure that conservation covenants are registered on the title of the land.

Recommendation 13

11.67 The committee recommends that all governments, in consultation with the ATO and private conservation organisations, examine improved tax treatment for private initiatives that provide long-term, secure conservation benefits.

Recommendation 14

12.34 The committee recommends that all states and territories publish comprehensive information in a national consistent form on funding levels for ongoing management of national parks and reserves, including staffing resources, and that this information be published annually in the relevant annual reports.

Recommendation 15

12.35 The committee recommends that all states and territories, at a minimum, maintain their budgets for national parks and reserves in real terms to meet expansions in the reserve estate and operational requirements.

Recommendation 16

12.102 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth review the funding formula under the NRS Programme to take greater account of the on-going management costs borne by the states and territories.

Recommendation 17

12.103 The committee recommends that in the upcoming NHT3 funding round the Commonwealth significantly increase the funding allocation directed to the NRS Programme.

Recommendation 18

12.118 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth consider substantially increased funding for World Heritage Areas.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Committee membership	iii
Recommendations	v
Abbreviations	xv
Executive summary	xix
Chapter 1 - Introduction	1
Terms of reference.....	1
Conduct of the inquiry.....	1
Terminology used in this report	3
Acknowledgements	3
Chapter 2 - Values and objectives of the conservation estate.....	5
Introduction	5
History	8
Contemporary conservation values	13
Diverse values, diverse conservation objectives?	16
Indigenous people and the conservation estate	19
Discussion about objectives	19
Conclusion	23
Chapter 3 - The terrestrial reserve system	25
Introduction	25
Commonwealth reserves	27
State and territory reserves	28
World Heritage Areas.....	30

National Heritage List	32
Conservation objectives beyond the public conservation estate	33
Planning for the future of the reserve system.....	34
Conclusion.....	39
Chapter 4 - Protecting the marine environment.....	41
Managing the marine environment.....	41
Marine protected areas	42
A National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas	47
Issues	52
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	72
Conclusion.....	75
Chapter 5 - Threats to the reserve system – fire.....	77
Fire.....	77
Conclusion.....	102
Chapter 6 - Threats to the reserve system – feral animals and weeds.....	105
Invasive species	105
Conclusion.....	127
Chapter 7 - Other threats to the reserve system.....	129
Climate change	129
Land clearing	135
Neighbours' management practices	140
Mining	148
Chapter 8 - Threats to the marine reserve system.....	153
Fishing	154
Invasive marine pests	158
Natural events	159
Conclusion.....	159

Chapter 9 - Effective planning for conservation.....	161
A whole of landscape approach.....	161
Management plans and planning processes.....	168
Co-ordination between stakeholders and conservation across tenures	173
Public consultation	180
Indigenous Protected Areas	184
Conclusion	190
Chapter 10 - Responding to the management challenge.....	191
Managing for a range of uses	191
Development of tourist infrastructure	207
Staffing – the over-arching issue.....	210
Maintaining public support for parks	218
Pastoralists and management practices	221
Chapter 11 - Private conservation – a valuable contribution.....	227
Introduction	227
The role of private conservation.....	227
Where private and public conservation meet	229
Government programs for encouraging private conservation.....	235
Chapter 12 - Funding.....	245
Funding – terrestrial	245
Funding – marine.....	246
Funding – states and territories.....	248
Comparison between jurisdictions	251
Adequacy of resourcing levels	255
NRS funding – issues	265
Funding of World Heritage Areas	271
Delineation of funding roles between governments.....	275

User pays	277
Minority report of Labor senators	289
The Terrestrial Reserve System.....	289
Protecting the Marine Environment	290
Threats to the Reserve System	292
Threats to the marine reserve system	294
Private conservation	294
National Reserve System.....	294
Minority report of the Australian Greens	297
Appendix 1 - Submissions	305
Appendix 2 - Public hearings	315
Appendix 3 - Tabled documents, additional information and answers to questions taken on notice	325
Tabled Documents.....	325
Additional Information.....	329
Answers to Questions taken on Notice.....	331
Appendix 4 - Australian terrestrial protected areas by IUCN management category	333
Appendix 5 - Marine and external terrestrial protected areas by IUCN management category	335
Appendix 6 - Summary of terrestrial protected areas in Australia by type	337
Appendix 7 - Terrestrial protected areas - IBRA boundaries.....	339
Appendix 8 - Securing our fishing future package	341
Appendix 9 - The list of weeds of national significance.....	343

Appendix 10 - Funding for terrestrial and marine reserves.....	347
Appendix 11 - Site inspections	353

