The Senate

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

Natural Resource Management and Conservation Challenges



Membership of the Committee

Members

Senator Fiona Nash, Chair
Senator Glenn Sterle, Deputy Chair
Western Australia, ALP
Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan
Senator Julian McGauran
Victoria, LP
Senator Christine Milne
Senator Kerry O'Brien
New South Wales, LP
Tasmania, AG
Tasmania, ALP

Substitute members for this inquiry

Senator Rachel Siewert Western Australia, AG to replace Senator Christine Milne

Participating members participating in this inquiry

Senator Judith Adams

Senator Chris Back

Senator Mark Bishop

Senator Mary Jo Fisher

Senator Annette Hurley

Senator Steve Hutchins

Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald

Western Australia, LP

Western Australia, ALP

South Australia, LP

South Australia, ALP

New South Wales, ALP

Queensland, LP

Secretariat

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe, Secretary Ms Ann Palmer, Principal Research Officer Ms Trish Carling, Senior Research Officer Ms Maria Sarelas, Executive Assistant Ms Lauren McDougall, Executive Assistant

PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Ph: 02 6277 3511

Fax: 02 6277 5811

E-mail: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Internet: http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/index.htm

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Membership of Committee	iii
Chapter One	1
Introduction	
Conduct of the inquiry	1
Acknowledgements	2
Chapter Two	3
Three decades of investment in National Resource Management – learning from past success and failure	
Introduction	3
Discussion of previous programs	8
Evaluations and reviews	21
Committee comment	30
Chapter 3	33
Caring for our Country	
Introduction	33
Caring for our Country Business Plan	34
Monitoring and evaluation	35
Access to funding	36
Streamlined application process	41
Partnerships	43
Discussion of issues	45
Committee comment	65
Chapter Four	67
Conclusions and Recommendations	
Transitional arrangements	67
A national strategy	68
Competitive funding model, community engagement and capacity building	69
Application process	71
Monitoring and Evaluation	72

Additional Comments by Government Senators	75
APPENDIX 1	79
Submissions Received	
APPENDIX 2	83
Public Hearings and Witnesses	
10 October 2008, Perth, WA	83
17 October 2008, Canberra, ACT	83
13 November 2009, Canberra, ACT	85