

**Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Pamela Green
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Judy West (02) 6250 9501
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee (ABRSAC) provides advice on allocation of research grants, training schemes, and on the development of strategic and operational priorities and directions for the Australian Biological Resources Study program.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee meets twice per year.

**Australian Heritage Council**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Professor Carmen Lawrence
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Alex Rankin (02) 6274 2250
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Australian Heritage Council (AHC) is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on heritage matters. The AHC plays a key role in assessment, advice and policy formulation and support of major heritage programs. Its main responsibilities are to assess places for the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List; nominate places for inclusion in the National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List; promote the identification, assessment, conservation and monitoring of heritage; and advise the Minister on heritage matters including the preparation and amendment of heritage strategies and management plans for Commonwealth areas and agencies.
<b>Meetings</b>	The AHC meets at least four times each year.

**Australian Landcare Council**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Currently vacant (Mr Dennis Mutton acting in an informal capacity)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the Australian Landcare Council Secretariat in the agriculture portfolio Agriculture portfolio contact: Angela Byron, Director (02) 6272 3635 Departmental contact: Sean Sullivan (02) 6102 7292
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Australian Landcare Council is the Australian Government's key advisory board on Natural Resource Management. The ALC was established under the <i>Natural Resources Management [Financial Assistance] Act 1992</i> to provide independent advice to the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for the Environment on natural resource management issues. This includes advice on priorities and strategies to achieve efficient, sustainable and equitable management of natural resources across Australia that are consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
<b>Meetings</b>	The next meeting will be held in Canberra in coming months.

**Basin Officials Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr David Parker, Deputy Secretary
<b>Secretariat</b>	Secretariat support is provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. MDBA contact: Lailey Wallace (02) 6279 0116
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Basin Officials Committee is established by the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement Schedule 1 to the <i>Water Act 2007</i>, as amended, and is part of the department and functions in an advisory capacity. Members are appointed by their respective states. The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitates cooperation and coordination between the Australian Government, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Basin states in managing the Basin's water resources and implementing the Basin Plan;</li> <li>• has responsibility for providing advice to the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and for implementing policy and decisions of the council on matters such as state water shares, the funding and delivery of natural resource management programs, and the Basin Plan; and</li> <li>• have high-level decision-making responsibilities for river operations, including setting objectives and outcomes to be achieved by the Authority in River Murray operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	Meetings are held five times per year.

**Biological Diversity Advisory Committee**

<b>Current Membership</b>	Membership of the Committee lapsed in February 2007. New members have not been appointed.
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Biological Diversity Advisory Committee (BDAC) was a Ministerial advisory committee created under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. The objects of the EPBC Act include 'to promote the conservation of biodiversity' and 'to assist in the cooperative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities', which include those arising from Australia's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. The Committee advised the then Australian Government Minister for the Environment on 'matters relating to the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of biological diversity' (Section 505 of the EPBC Act).</p>
<b>Meetings</b>	



**Booderee National Park Board of Management**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Craig Ardler (Aboriginal traditional owner)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Director of National Parks Board Secretariat Officer: Lyn Ashton (Booderee National Park) Director of National Parks contact: Peter Cochrane (02) 6274 2221
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Booderee National Park Board of Management was established under sections 374 – 383 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> for Commonwealth reserves on Aboriginal land to prepare management plans, in conjunction with the Director of National Parks, make decisions to implement management plans, monitor the management of the park and to provide advice to the Minister on all aspects of development in the park.
<b>Meetings</b>	Determined by the Board but generally four times per year.

**Bureau of Meteorology Advisory Board**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Terms of all Board members expired in March 2009.
<b>Secretariat</b>	Bureau of Meteorology
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Bureau of Meteorology Advisory Board advised the Minister and the Director of Meteorology on issues of relevance to the proper discharge of the functions of the Bureau of Meteorology, including the national and international environment for meteorological service provision, the Bureau's Corporate Strategy and Forward program, and broad scale resourcing and implementation issues.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Board has not met since November 2008.

**Environmental Water Scientific Advisory Panel**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Professor Peter Davies
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: David Papps (02) 6275 9246
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Environmental Water Scientific Advisory Panel comprises prominent scientists and experts in fields such as hydrology, limnology, river operations management, river and floodplain ecology and the management of aquatic ecosystems.  The role of the Advisory Panel is to advise the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office on the use of environmental water including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• methods for determining relative priority of environmental assets;</li> <li>• areas which merit additional investigation, including additional research; and</li> <li>• assessing the benefits of the use of environmental water.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	As required, generally around four times per year.

**Environmental Water Stakeholder Reference Panel**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr David Papps
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: David Papps (02) 6275 9246
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Terms of Reference for the Environmental Water Stakeholder Reference Panel will be to assist the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office in its stakeholder consultation and engagement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing advice and guidance on effective ways to engage with basin stakeholders on Commonwealth environmental water;</li> <li>• providing advice on priority areas of focus relating to stakeholder engagement;</li> <li>• sharing information and experiences about the use and management of Commonwealth environmental water;</li> <li>• providing a forum for Commonwealth Environmental Water to hear concerns and views that Basin stakeholders have regarding the use of Commonwealth environmental water; and</li> <li>• advising about the effectiveness of Basin stakeholder engagement by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office including through its communication products about Commonwealth environmental water.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	As required, generally around twice a year.

**Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Mary Lack
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Nathan Hanna (02) 6274 1917
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	Established in January 2013 under Part 15B of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> , the Expert Panel on a Declared Fishing Activity will assess the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity, particularly the potential for the activity to result in adverse environmental impacts. The Panel will report to the Minister by 22 October 2014.
<b>Meetings</b>	Determined by the Chair in consultation with the Expert Panel, and generally four times per year.



**Expert Panel for Major Coal Seam Gas Projects**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Professor Paul Greenfield
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Dieter Kluger (02) 6275 9453
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Expert Panel for Major Coal Seam Gas Projects provides advice to the Minister and the department on water management issues associated with the three major coal seam gas projects in Queensland approved under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
<b>Meetings</b>	As required, generally four to six times per year.

**Fuel Standards Consultative Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Jane O'Sullivan
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Andrew McNee (02) 6274 1622
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Minister for the portfolio must consult with the Fuel Standards Consultative Committee before: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making fuel standards;</li> <li>• making fuel quality information standards;</li> <li>• altering guidelines for more stringent fuel standards; or</li> <li>• granting, varying or revoking an approval to vary a fuel standard.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee meets twice per year.

**Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Currently vacant. Ms Juanita Hamparsum (a Committee member) is currently Acting as Chair, as allowed under the Committee's Operating Arrangements
<b>Secretariat</b>	Secretariat Australia Pty Ltd Departmental contact: Tony Slatyer (02) 6274 1919
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee is a community, industry and officials forum that provides advice to the Standing Council on Environment and Water on efficient, effective and sustainable whole-of-resource management of the Great Artesian Basin and to coordinate activity between stakeholders.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee holds three meetings per year.

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Dr Russell Reichelt
<b>Secretariat</b>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Contact: Steve Clark (07) 4750 0619
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The functions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board, as set out in the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i>, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide information, advice and recommendations to the Minister in relation to the care and development of the Marine Park, including the areas that should be declared part of the Park and the regulations that should be made under the Act;</li> <li>• to prepare zoning plans and plans of management;</li> <li>• management of the Marine Park, with day-to-day management (including permitting, education and compliance) being undertaken cooperatively with the Queensland Government;</li> <li>• carrying out or arranging research relevant to the Marine Park; and</li> <li>• provision of education, advisory and information services relating to the Marine Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	Meetings are held four times per year, or as required.

**Hazardous Waste Technical Group**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Professor Paul Greenfield
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Andrew McNee (02) 6274 1622
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Hazardous Waste Technical Group provides advice to the department on the operation of the <i>Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989</i> and related issues arising from Australia's implementation of the Basel Convention.
<b>Meetings</b>	Three or four meetings are held per year or as required.

**Iconic Sites Taskforce**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Grant Hunt
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Alex Rankin 02 6274 2250
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Iconic Sites Taskforce was established in December 2011 for a two year term to advise the Minister on matters relating to heritage and the protection of iconic national assets.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Taskforce has had one meeting in June 2012.



**Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Lisa Corbyn
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the Office of Water Science within the department Departmental contact: Yvette Blackman (02) 6274 1978
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (the Committee) was established in October 2012 under section 505D of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> . The functions of the Committee are related to the impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining development on water resources, including any impacts of associated salt production and/or salinity, and include advising the Commonwealth Environment Minister on development proposals, bioregional assessments and research priorities and projects; advising appropriate state ministers on development proposals; collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating scientific information; and publishing information.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee meets monthly and is required to meet at least 11 times a year.

**Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Anthea Tinney
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Celeste Powell (02) 6274 2148
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	Examine and report on the management arrangements for the Port of Gladstone and advise the Minister on other relevant matters to inform decision-making under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> , in response to the World Heritage Committee's decision (36 Com 7B.8).
<b>Meetings</b>	Meetings are held as required, approximately monthly. The Review commenced in February and is due for completion towards the end of 2013.

**Indigenous Advisory Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Melissa George
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Kate Thomann (02) 6275 9099
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	Under section 505B of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> , the function of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) is to advise the Minister on the operation of the Act, taking into account the significance of Indigenous people's knowledge of the management of land and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The IAC was established under the EPBC Act in July 2000.
<b>Meetings</b>	The IAC meets at least twice a year and the meetings are rotated around states and regions.

**Indigenous Protected Areas sub-committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Chrissy Grant
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Bruce Rose (02) 6274 2326.
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) sub-committee provides advice to the Minister and the department on the development of the Indigenous Protected Area program under the <i>Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997</i> , National Reserve Systems program.
<b>Meetings</b>	The IPA sub-committee meets at least once per year.

**Indigenous Water Advisory Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Phil Duncan
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Charles Edlington (02) 6275 9603
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Indigenous Water Advisory Committee is an expert panel established to provide advice to the department on incorporating Indigenous views, beliefs and interests into the development and implementation of Commonwealth water policies and programs. If requested, the IWAC also provides advice to Commonwealth water portfolio agencies, including the National Water Commission and the Bureau of Meteorology.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee meets between two and four times a year.

**Kakadu National Park Board of Management**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Currently vacant
<b>Secretariat</b>	Director of National Parks Board Secretariat Officer: Trissie Bell (Kakadu National Park) Director of National Parks contact: Peter Cochrane (02) 6274 2220
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Kakadu National Park Board of Management was established under sections 374 – 383 of the <i>Environment Protect and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (the EPBC Act) for Commonwealth reserves on Aboriginal land, to prepare management plans in conjunction with the Director of National Parks, make decisions to implement management plans, monitor the management of the park and to provide advice to the Minister on all aspects of development in the park.
<b>Meetings</b>	Determined by the Board but generally four times per year.



**Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Angus Emmott
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Tony Slatyer (02) 6274 1919
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee is a community and industry forum whose membership reflects the requirements of Clause 5.11.2 of the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement. The primary function of the Committee is to develop and provide high quality, relevant and timely advice to the Ministerial Forum on matters relevant to the management of water and related natural resources within the Agreement Area, consistent with the spirit and intent of the Agreement and to relay decisions back to the community.
<b>Meetings</b>	Up to two face-to-face meetings each year.

**Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Steve Morton
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Tony Slatyer (02) 6274 1919
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The primary role of the Lake Eyre Basin Scientific Advisory Panel is to provide relevant, timely and high quality scientific advice to the Ministerial Forum on matters relevant to the management of water and related natural resources within the Agreement Area. In particular, the Panel provides advice on monitoring the condition of rivers and catchments as required by Clauses 7.1 and 10.4 of the Agreement.</p> <p>The Panel alerts the Ministerial Forum to current knowledge gaps and the strategic scientific investigations required for underpinning future management decisions in relation to the Basin. The Panel also has a role in the development of policies and strategies under the Agreement and the implementation of the proposed Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Assessment.</p> <p>The Panel can call on and coordinate additional scientific or technical expertise for the Ministerial Forum, as and when required.</p>
<b>Meetings</b>	Up to two face-to-face meetings each year.

**Lake Eyre Basin Senior Officers Group**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Greg Manning
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Greg Manning (02) 6274 1904
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	To oversee the provision of information and advice to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum to adequately inform it in formulating resolutions and making decisions under the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement. The implementation of the Ministerial Forum resolutions and decisions.
<b>Meetings</b>	Approximately one face-to-face meeting plus three teleconferences each year.

**Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board**

<b>Current Chair</b>	The Hon Robert Debus AM
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Claire Howlett (02) 6274 2501
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board is an advisory board, providing independent advice to the Environment Minister, the Climate Change Minister and the Agriculture Minister on the implementation of the Land Sector Package. Its functions are set out in the <i>Climate Change Authority Act 2011</i> and are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advise the relevant Minister/s on implementation, performance indicators and priorities for research in relation to the Land Sector Package;</li> <li>• advise the Environment Minister on performance indicators, implementation and guidelines for the Biodiversity Fund;</li> <li>• provide guidance on implementation of the Land Sector Package;</li> <li>• on request, advise the Minister/s about any other matters that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. relate to measures, or proposed measures, that assist the land sector to deal with climate change;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• advise the Environment Minister on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. the implementation of the National Wildlife Corridors Plan;</li> <li>c. the nomination of wildlife corridors for declaration as National Wildlife Corridors and the assessment of those nominated wildlife corridors;</li> <li>d. the declaration of wildlife corridors as National Wildlife Corridors;</li> <li>e. progress towards the implementation of National Wildlife Corridors in the annual report for presentation to the Parliament; and</li> <li>f. priorities for research and investigation in relation to the matters specified in paragraphs (a) – (d) above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Board reports annually to the Environment Minister on the operations during that year.</p>
<b>Meetings</b>	The Board meets approximately four times per year – a combination of face-to-face meetings and teleconferences.



**Murray Darling Basin Authority**

<b>Current Chair</b>	The Hon Craig Knowles
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Contact: Lailey Wallace (02) 6279 0116
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is comprised of a part time Chair, a Chief Executive, and four part-time members, as provided for in the Water Act 2007 (Cwlth). The MDBA is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan is a strategic plan for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin. The MDBA is responsible for the functions of the former Murray-Darling Basin Commission and is supported by the agency (Murray-Darling Basin Authority).</p> <p>Key functions of the MDBA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation of the Basin Plan as adopted by the former Minister in November 2012, including setting sustainable limits on water that can be taken from surface and groundwater systems across the Basin;</li> <li>• advising the Minister on the accreditation of state water resource plans;</li> <li>• developing a water rights information service which facilitates water trading across the Murray-Darling Basin;</li> <li>• measuring and monitoring water resources in the Basin;</li> <li>• gathering information and undertaking research; and</li> <li>• engaging the community in the management of the Basin's resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	The MDBA meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

**Murray Darling Basin Community Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Rory Treweek
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Contact: Lailey Wallace (02) 6279 0116
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Murray Darling Basin Community Committee (MDBCC) is established under the Water Act 2007 (Cwlth) to provide a community perspective for the Authority and the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council on a wide range of water resource, environmental, cultural and socioeconomic matters.</p> <p>Committee members are key local contacts for the Authority, reporting on emerging community concerns and issues around Basin Plan implementation, as well as providing information to Basin communities on MDBA programs. Community engagement activities are under the guidance of the MDBA.</p> <p>MDBCC members are selected on the basis of their expertise or interest in community, water use, environmental water management, Indigenous or local government matters.</p> <p>To assist in its advisory role the Committee is required to form irrigation, environmental water and Indigenous water subcommittees.</p> <p>The MDBA is represented on the Committee by one of the part-time members on a rotational basis.</p>
<b>Meetings</b>	Meetings are held quarterly.

**National Sustainability Council**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Professor John Thwaites
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Mark Flanigan (02) 6274 2068
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The National Sustainability Council (NSC) was established in October 2012 as an independent, expert body to provide advice on sustainability issues. It reports to the Minister for the Environment.</p> <p>The NSC's role is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver a public Sustainable Australia Report every two years, providing information and analysis on key trends and emerging issues as highlighted by a set of national sustainability indicators, with the first report to be released within six months of the Council's establishment (the first report was released in May 2013);</li> <li>• communicate the report's findings;</li> <li>• provide interim, targeted reports on sustainability issues as directed by the Minister; and</li> <li>• provide advice, on an ongoing basis, to the department on improvements to the national sustainability indicators.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	The NSC meets up to four times a year during reporting years, and up to twice during non-reporting years.

**National Water Commission**

<b>Current Chair</b>	The Hon Karlene Maywald
<b>Secretariat</b>	National Water Commission Commission contact: Peta Harding (02) 6102 6032
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The National Water Commission (NWC) is a statutory authority with the functions described in the National Water Initiative Intergovernmental Agreement, the <i>National Water Commission Act 2004</i> and the <i>Water Act 2007</i>. There are five Commissioners with two nominated by the states and three (including the Chair) nominated by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Commissioners are appointed on the basis on their high level of expertise in an area relevant to the functions of the NWC as detailed in section 11(c) of the <i>National Water Commission Act 2004</i>.</p> <p>The role of the NWC is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the objectives and outcomes of the National Water Initiative (NWI);</li> <li>• assess, every 3 years, progress by jurisdictions in implementing agreed NWI reforms; and</li> <li>• provide independent oversight of Basin jurisdictions in implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	The Act requires that the NWC meet at least five times a year.



**National Wildlife Corridors Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Dr Graeme Worboys
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Claire Howlett (02) 6274 2501
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The National Wildlife Corridors Committee is established by the Environment Minister, with the agreement of the Agriculture Minister, under subsection 78(1) of the <i>Climate Change Authority Act 2011</i>, to provide advice and assist the Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board in the performance of its functions as they relate to wildlife corridors.</p> <p>The Committee provides advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the implementation of the National Wildlife Corridors Plan;</li> <li>• matters relating to the nomination of wildlife corridors for declaration as National Wildlife Corridors and the assessment of those nominated wildlife corridors;</li> <li>• the declaration of wildlife corridors as National Wildlife Corridors;</li> <li>• priorities for research and investigation in relation to the matters specified in paragraphs (a) – (c) above; and</li> <li>• any other matter that the Minister for the Environment requests advice or information about.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee has no executive powers or decision-making authority. It functions in a review and advisory role to the Board.</p>
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee meets approximately four times a year – a combination of face-to-face meetings and teleconferences.

**Natural Heritage Ministerial Board**

<b>Current Chair</b>	The Board is co-chaired by the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Agriculture
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department and the agriculture portfolio Departmental contact: Claire Howlett (02) 6274 2501
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Natural Heritage Ministerial Board (NHMB) is the key Ministerial decision-making body for Caring for our Country. It makes decisions on expenditure under the <i>Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997</i>.</p> <p>The NHMB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consults on all matters relating to the Reserve (i.e. funds reserved for the operation of the Trust);</li> <li>• prepares estimates of expenditure under s. 41 of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997; and</li> <li>• monitors the effectiveness of the administration of the Act in achieving the Caring for our Country goal to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well-managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting</b>	No meetings are scheduled and business can be conducted on paperwork.

**Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	The Caring for our Country Advisory Committee, formally known as the Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee was suspended pending settlement of Caring for our Country Phase II settings. All positions are currently vacant.
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Claire Howlett (02) 6274 2501
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee is a statutory body established under Section 30 of the <i>Natural Heritage Trust Australia Act 1997</i> . Briefing on potential appointments will be provided shortly.
<b>Meetings</b>	No meetings scheduled.

**Oil Stewardship Advisory Council**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Mike Williamson
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Bruce Edwards (02) 6274 1400
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Oil Stewardship Advisory Council advises the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on the general operation of the Product Stewardship for Oil program, benefit rates, product standards, the recovery and recycling of used oil, and the state of the oil production and oil recycling industries.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Council meets at least once every year.

**Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Prime Minister
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the Office of the Chief Scientist of Australia, Professor Ian Chubb, Innovation portfolio Secretariat contact: Helen Horton (02) 6276 1058
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council is the pre-eminent science advisory body to the Australian Government and is Chaired by the Prime Minister and has a membership comprising of Ministers, the Chief Scientist and a select group of experts. The Council provides advice to the government on scientific and technological developments.
<b>Meetings</b>	The Standing Committee, the non-ministerial members of the Council, meet four times a year. Council itself will reconvene later in the year.



**Product Stewardship Advisory Group**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Kathleen Mackie
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Bruce Edwards (02) 6274 1400
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Product Stewardship Advisory Group provides advice to the Minister on the publication of an annual list of products the Minister proposes to consider, during the next financial year, for some form of accreditation or regulation under the <i>Product Stewardship Act 2011</i> .
<b>Meetings</b>	The Group will convene at least one official face-to-face meeting per financial year.

**Rock Art Foundation Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Dr Mary Edmunds, Independent Chair
<b>Secretariat</b>	Secretariat contact: Sharon Reynolds, Indigenous Affairs, Woodside Energy Ltd
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Rock Art Foundation Committee is responsible for making funding recommendations and overseeing expenditure through the conservation agreement between the Commonwealth and Woodside Energy Ltd. The agreement sets out Woodside's commitment to provide up to \$34 million over 10 years for the benefit of the National Heritage values of the Dampier Archipelago (including Burrup Peninsula) National Heritage place. The Committee has one government representative from the department (Assistant Secretary, Heritage).
<b>Meetings</b>	The Committee meets at least quarterly via teleconference. There is also an annual meeting held each year in October/November in Roebourne, Western Australia to develop a strategic workplan and budget for the following financial year, subject to Ministerial approval.

**Sydney Harbour Federation Trust**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Ms Anthea Tinney
<b>Secretariat</b>	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Departmental contact: Geoff Bailey (02) 8969 2100
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	A governing Board of Trustees guide the process of planning and implementing projects for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Beneath this Trust, the Executive Director manages the daily affairs of the Trust.

**Threatened Species Scientific Committee**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Professor Helene Marsh
<b>Secretariat</b>	Provided by the department Departmental contact: Peter Wright (02) 6274 1052
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	Established under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act), the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) advises the Minister on the amendment and updating of the EPBC Act's lists for threatened species, threatened ecological communities, and key threatening processes together with making or adopting recovery plans and threat abatement plans.
<b>Meetings</b>	The TSSC meets three times per year.

**Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Harry Wilson (Aboriginal traditional owner)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Director of National Parks Board Secretariat Officer: Mandy Pearce (Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park) Director of National Parks contact: Peter Cochrane (02) 6274 2220
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	The Uluru-Kata Tjuta national Park Board of Management was established under sections 374 – 383 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> for Commonwealth reserves on Aboriginal land, to prepare management plans in conjunction with the Director of National Parks, make decisions to implement management plans, monitor the management of the park and to provide advice to the Minister on all aspects of development in the park.
<b>Meetings</b>	Generally four times per year



**Urban Water Stakeholder Reference Panel**

<b>Current Chair</b>	Mr Tony Slatyer
<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>Provided by the department</p> <p>Departmental contact: Jane McClintock (02) 6274 2936</p>
<b>Role/Terms of Reference</b>	<p>The Urban Water Stakeholder Reference Panel comprises eight members drawn from industry, consumer advocacy and academic backgrounds. The role of the UWSRP is to assist the department to design and implement urban 'Water for the Future' programs, by providing perspectives from a range of community interests. It is expected that the group will also provide views on national urban water reforms and feedback on the implementation of reform measures.</p> <p>As required and as requested by the department, the UWSRPP provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advice and stakeholder views regarding the implementation of the government's urban water programs;</li> <li>• a forum for the department to disseminate information and seek feedback on key urban water issues;</li> <li>• advice on stakeholder views regarding progress in implementing the National Water Initiative urban water reform actions and actions identified in the enhanced urban water reform frameworks; and</li> <li>• advice on stakeholder views on the impacts of and benefits flowing from the implementation of urban water reforms.</li> </ul>
<b>Meetings</b>	The Reference Panel meets three times per year.

**ATTACHMENT E: PORTFOLIO APPOINTMENTS**

This section outlines statutory and other appointments for which you are responsible as Minister, that are due to expire within the next six months or that have expired. The department will brief you separately over the coming weeks.

***Appointments due to expire in the next six months***

<b>Committee/Board/Taskforce</b>	<b>Member name</b>	<b>Term expiry date</b>
Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Gordon Guymmer Keith Walker	16 September 2013
Gladstone Independent Review	Anthea Tinney (Chair) Eva Abal Ian Creswell Richard Kenchington	31 October 2013 and/or when the work of the group is finalised.
Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management	Harry Wilson (Chair) Alison Hunt Judy Trigger Bruce Breaden Malya Teamay Sammy Wilson Pantjiti Windlass	9 November 2013
Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee	Brenda Shields Marilyn Ah Chee Scott Gorringer	22 November 2013
Booderee National Park Board of Management	Craig Ardler (Chair) Todd Minchinton	11 January 2014
Iconic Sites Taskforce	Grant Hunt (Chair) Amanda Vanstone Elspeth Wishart Gail Reynolds-Adamson Penelope Figgis Dianne Smith Mr David Tierney Dr David Tierney Peter Valentine	20 February 2014



**Expired appointments**

<b>Committee/Board/Taskforce</b>	<b>Member/Chair/Commissioner</b>	<b>Term Expiry date</b>
Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee	One member	Term expired on 31 July 2013
Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Advisory Committee	Two members	Terms expired on 30 June 2013
Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board	One member	Term expired on 31 July 2013
Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee	One member	Term expired on 8 March 2013 – Traditional owner nominee
Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee	Chair	Chair resigned on 1 July 2013
Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee	Member	Long term vacancy. Stakeholder nominee
Australian Biological Resources Study Advisory Committee	Chair Two members	Terms expired 30 June 2013 – Stakeholder nominees
Booderee National Park Board of Management	Three members	Terms expired on 19 June 2013
Kakadu Board of Management	Chair	Term expired 1 December 2012
Murray Darling Basin Authority	One Member	Term expired on 13 June 2013
National Water Commission	Commissioner	Term expired on 10 April 2013