



Biological Diversity Advisory Committee

MEETING 16 AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY INPUT
MEETING COMMUNIQUE

20-21 November 2006

25 January 2007

20-21 The Biological Diversity Advisory Committee (the Committee) held its sixteenth meeting in Canberra on 21 November 2006. The Committee agreed that it would continue to progress key topics identified in previous meetings, including the role of climate change on invasive species, taxonomy and incentive-based programmes to support biological diversity outcomes.

On 20 November 2006, the Committee hosted a Climate Change and Invasive Species Workshop in Canberra to consider the ways in which climate change may influence how invasive species threaten biodiversity. 9 specialist speakers were invited and 26 participants attended. The key message arising from the meeting was that climate change is likely to result in invasive species populations becoming more opportunistic in competing with native species, and at much larger scales than presently seen today. The Committee agreed that it will continue to investigate the effects of climate change on the incursion and spread of invasive species.

The Committee continued to highlight the importance of taxonomic resources for Australian Biodiversity. The Committee advised that there is a critical shortage of taxonomists and in order to reverse this trend significant funding is needed to restore Australia's taxonomic capacity. The Committee recommended that the issue of adequate resources for taxonomy be pursued through the National Resource Management Ministerial Council.

The Committee met on 25 January 2007 to formulate its response to the review of the 1996 *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (the Strategy). The key recommendations made by the Committee included: in principle support for a national environmental stewardship programme, of which the Strategy should take full advantage; more detailed and explicit recognition of major threats to biodiversity (e.g. climate change, spread of both established and emerging invasive pest species); improved monitoring and evaluation practices and increased funding for taxonomy resources.

The Committee considers the review of the National Biodiversity Strategy as being necessary and essential to shaping Australia's future commitment to conserving biological diversity.

The Committee will also provide input to reviews of *The National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation*, and the *National Weeds Strategy*.