



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary inquiry launched following audit report on Victorian wetlands

The Victorian Parliament's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee has commenced a public inquiry that will investigate the response to an Auditor-General's report on Victoria's wetlands.

The audit report, released in 2016, examined whether Victoria was meeting its obligations to protect wetlands under the international Ramsar Convention.

Victoria's wetlands are a critical part of our state's natural environment. The Auditor-General wanted to know that they are well-managed and that international obligations in relation to their conservation were being met.

The Auditor-General concluded that general management of Ramsar wetland sites needed to improve for Victoria to effectively meet its obligations.

"This inquiry will be an opportunity to examine what actions government agencies have taken in response to the Auditor-General's findings and recommendations," Committee Chair Lizzie Blandthorn said.

"We will be seeking information from the relevant agencies such as Parks Victoria on the steps they have taken to address the issues identified," Ms Blandthorn said.

"At the same time, we are keen to hear from people and groups with expertise and interest in the wetlands and their management."

Ramsar wetland sites are located across Victoria.

Public submissions to the inquiry can be made until 29 November 2019, with public hearings to commence in December.

"Our Committee has an important role ensuring that government agencies are held accountable to the Parliament," Ms Blandthorn said.

"Reviewing what actions government agencies take in response to audit reports is a vital part of that accountability process."

For further details on the inquiry, go to the Committee's [website](#).

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