



Indigenous Affairs Committee to visit Groote Eylandt

Following the postponement of the recent hearing due to Tropical Cyclone Lam, the House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs has rescheduled the hearing on Groote Eylandt for Wednesday 8 April for its inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Committee Chair, Dr Sharman Stone MP, said: ‘The Committee appreciates the witnesses on Groote Eylandt making themselves available for the hearing tomorrow.’

The Committee will visit Groote Eylandt to hear first-hand about the whole-of-island liquor management plan, which was instigated by and continues to be run by the community. The inquiry is looking for best practice and to learn from lessons from the past.

‘Communities such as those from Groote Eylandt have obtained alcohol restrictions, which apply to all people living on or visiting the island. They have taken a bold and proactive step for their people. The Committee would like to investigate how models such as this could be more widely applied and the benefits and any pitfalls in applying such restrictions,’ Dr Stone concluded.

On Groote Eylandt the witnesses will include Anindilyakwa Land Council and community members involved in the establishment of the liquor management plan.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

When: Wednesday 8 April
Time: 10.30am – 4.00pm
Where: Dugong Beach Resort
1 Bougainvillea Drive, Alyangula NT 0885

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The terms of reference and full programs are available at www.aph.gov.au/indigenousaffairs
The proceedings will be audio webcast live on: www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371. **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or indigenousaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au