



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Senate inquiry into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula Public Hearings

Issue date: 9 April 2020

Public hearing – 1 May 2020

As part of its inquiry into investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria, the Senate Community Affairs References Committee will hold a public hearing **via teleconference** on **1 May 2020**.

'Given the current situation with COVID-19, the committee has not scheduled any face-to-face public hearings for this inquiry in the coming months', said the Committee Chair, Senator Rachel Siewert. 'At its public hearing on 1 May 2020 the committee will hear evidence from health organisations and local and state governments via teleconference.'

Public hearing on the Bellarine Peninsula

'At a time when it is safe to do so, the committee will hold a public, face-to-face hearing on the Bellarine Peninsula. The focus of this second public hearing will be to receive evidence from individuals and community organisations', said Senator Siewert.

'Evidence from this second public hearing will be a vital part of the inquiry', Senator Siewert stated. 'The committee will not report to the Senate until it has held this second public hearing and considered the evidence received and for this reason, **we have extended the reporting date for the inquiry to 26 November 2020**'.

Media enquiries: Office of Senator Rachel Siewert, Committee Chair on (02) 6277 3587.

For background information: contact the committee secretariat.

DATE REFERRED

17 October 2019

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE

27 March 2020

PUBLIC HEARING

1 May 2020

REPORTING DATE

26 November 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Senator Rachel Siewert
(Chair)

Senator Wendy Askew
(Deputy Chair)

Senator Catryna Bilyk

Senator Hollie Hughes

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy

Senator Anne Urquhart

Participating members:

Senator the Hon Sarah
Henderson

Senator Kimberley Kitching

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Additional information about public hearings

Most committee hearings are held in public. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet: www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament.

Further information about what to expect when attending a Senate committee hearing is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#).

Further information about the inquiry

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca.

Inquiry Terms of Reference

Investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, with particular reference to:

- (a) the health concerns of local residents;
- (b) the incidence of cancer cases in the area, and any possible environmental or other contributing factors;
- (c) the evidence, approach and outcomes concerning the Victorian Chief Health Officer's investigation of cancer rates on the Bellarine Peninsula; and
- (d) any other related matter.