



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE,  
WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 3 September 2008*

*Chair—Jennie George MP  
Deputy Chair—Mal Washer MP*

## Geoscience Australia attends Canberra hearing

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will hear from Geoscience Australia at a public hearing in Canberra on 4 September 2008 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

"Geoscience Australia is Australia's national geoscience research and information agency, and for many years has played an important role in assisting State and Commonwealth environmental and disaster managers by providing fundamental geoscientific data, information and advice related to coastal issues," Committee Chair Ms George said.

"The agency's mission is to use geoscientific research and information for the economic, social and environmental benefit of Australia. It can assist the Committee in developing its understanding of the vulnerability of our coastal environment to natural hazards, including the threat posed by climate change, and can provide technical advice on a variety of issues in environmental management of the coast and natural hazard and risk management."

"The Committee looks forward to hearing from Geoscience Australia about these matters," Ms George said.

The terms of reference provide for the committee to inquire into climate change and environmental pressures experienced by Australian coastal areas. The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, taking in the catchment-coast-ocean continuum
- the environmental impacts of coastal population growth and mechanisms to promote sustainable use of coastal resources
- the impact of climate change on coastal areas and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation, particularly in response to projected sea level rise
- mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities
- governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this hearing.

**Public hearing schedule on 4 September 2008**

**Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra**

**10.45am Geoscience Australia**

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccwea>.

For **media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Jennie George MP, on 02 6277 4260 (Canberra) or 02 4262 6122 (electorate office)

For **background information**, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or by email at [ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au).