



Inquiry into meteorological forecasting Public hearing in Melbourne

The House of Representatives Industry, Science and Innovation Committee will conduct its first public hearing for its inquiry into long-term meteorological forecasting in Australia, on **Monday 18 May** in Melbourne.

Appearing at the public hearing will be the two key witnesses for the inquiry, the **Bureau of Meteorology** and **CSIRO**. Both organisations play key roles in weather forecasting, coupling strengths in climate and atmospheric science with strategic research and operational roles. Both organisations jointly manage the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research.

The inquiry into long-term meteorological forecasting is examining the efficacy of current climate modelling methods and techniques and long-term meteorological prediction systems and the impact of accurate measurement of inter-seasonal climate variability on decision-making processes for sectors such as agricultural production

“Weather plays a huge part in the lives of all Australians. Even simple daily activities are determined by the weather, and having access to accurate weather forecasting is essential”, Committee Chair Maria Vamvakinou said.

“In particular, accurate long-term forecasting is essential for many of our industry sectors, for example, our agricultural industry. Without accurate long-term forecasting, the planting of crops reliant on seasonal rains is a risky business”.

“This inquiry will examine Australia’s current climate modelling and forecasting methods and systems, and the impact of accurate forecasting on various decision-making processes. Disaster warnings and applications for emergency response will also be examined”.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM
Monday 18 May 2009 – 9.00am to 11.45am
Bureau of Meteorology
Conference Room 3, Level 6
700 Collins St, Docklands, Victoria

9.00am Bureau of Meteorology (submission 4)

10.15am CSIRO (submission 16)

Further details, including the full terms of reference, membership of the committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the committee’s website at www.aph.gov.au/isi.

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Ms Maria Vamvakinou, on 0417 541 465.

For further information: contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4594, or isi.reps@aph.gov.au.