



Inquiry into meteorological forecasting Public hearing in Canberra

The House of Representatives Industry, Science and Innovation Committee will conduct its second public hearing for its inquiry into long-term meteorological forecasting in Australia, on **Wednesday 3 June** in Canberra.

Appearing at the public hearing will be the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Department's role is to develop and implement policies and programs that ensure Australia's agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable. The Department will discuss the impact that long-term meteorological forecasting has on agricultural production.

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
Wednesday 3 June 2009 – 10.00am to 10.45am
Committee Room 1R5
Parliament House, Canberra**

10.00am Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (submission 27)

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.