



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 19 May 2009

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

Climate change committee to discuss coastal management

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will hear from a range of organisations and individuals at a public hearing in Melbourne on Wednesday 20 May and Thursday 21 May 2009 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

Those appearing before the Committee include the Victorian Government, the Victorian Coastal Council and its regional boards, local councils, environmental bodies and leading coastal researchers.

"The Victorian Coastal Council submission notes that the council 'is working on the development of a range of policies and actions to help prepare Victoria's coastal communities for the impacts associated with climate change,'" Committee Chair Ms George said.

"Early planning for the impacts of climate change, and appropriate adaptation strategies that reduce the vulnerability of natural ecosystems and infrastructure to these impacts, are likely to bring considerable cost advantages."

"The Committee will be interested in discussing these and other issues with those attending the hearing," Ms George said.

The inquiry will examine the environmental impacts of coastal population growth and the impact of climate change on coastal areas, including sea level rise. The Committee is also looking at ways to encourage sustainable coastal communities, and at governance and institutional arrangements for Australia's coastal zone.

Public hearing schedule 20-21 May 2009

Wednesday 20 May 2009

**Venue: Monash Conference Centre, Boardroom,
Level 11, 30 Collins St, Melbourne**

9.00am	Victorian Coastal Council Western Coastal Board
10.15am	Australian Bureau of Meteorology
11.15am	Ms Barbara Norman, RMIT
12.00 noon	Environment Institute of Australia & NZ
1.30pm	Mr Clive Attwater, SGS Pty Ltd
2.00pm	Dr Geoff Wescott, Deakin University
3.00pm	Great Ocean Road Coast Committee
3.30pm	Victorian Government
4.30pm	Central Coastal Board Gippsland Coastal Board

Thursday 21 May 2009

**Venue: Oakleigh Room, 6th floor, City of Kingston Offices,
1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham**

9.20am	Global Warming Group Queenscliffe
9.50am	Western Port Greenhouse Alliance
10.35am	Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering
11.10am	Wellington Shire Council Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

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.