



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 24 September 2008

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

Dealing with the impacts of sea level rise

Federal parliamentary committee hears from Department of Climate Change

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will hear from the Department of Climate Change at a public hearing in Canberra on 25 September 2008 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

"The Department of Climate Change has a key role in assisting Australia's coastal communities to prepare for the impacts of climate change," Committee Chair Ms George said.

"The department's submission to the inquiry notes that, while all areas of Australia are at risk from impacts of climate change, the impacts on the coastal zone will be considerable. These impacts will affect a majority of Australians and associated infrastructure because 80% of the Australian population lives in the coastal zone, and approximately 700,000 addresses are within 3 kilometres of the coast and less than 6 metres above sea level".

"Climate change, particularly projected sea level rise, therefore has serious implications for coastal areas," Ms George said.

The inquiry will examine existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, ways to promote sustainable use of coastal resources, and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation. The Committee is also looking at ways to promote sustainable coastal communities, as well as governance and institutional arrangements for Australia's coastal zone.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing, which will also be webcast (audio only) on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting>.

Public hearing schedule on 25 September 2008

Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

10.45am Department of Climate Change

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.