



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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Engineering Our Cities: Frameworks for development

Canberra, Thursday 17 June 2004

Possible frameworks to shape the development of sustainable Australian cities will be one of the topics discussed at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Environment Committee in Canberra on Thursday 17 June 2004. Representatives from Engineers Australia and Environment Business Australia are appearing before the Environment Committee.

To ensure that Australian cities of the future are clean, liveable and accessible places, the Environment Committee is conducting an inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025*. The inquiry is looking at developing a national blueprint and set of objectives for sustainable Australian cities. A key issue is the type of governance structures and policies needed to achieve this, and how the three tiers of government can cooperatively work towards sustainability in our metropolitan areas.

"Integrating the built and natural environment in a sustainable manner requires planning and a clearly articulated strategy," said the Environment Committee Chair, Mr Bruce Billson MP. "Identifying the issues and articulating a forward strategy for the nation is the target of this inquiry".

Engineers Australia has stated that the Australian Government should encourage other States and Territories to adopt programs such as Melbourne 2030. The Melbourne 2030 program sets out key objectives towards creating a liveable and sustainable city of the future. Engineers Australia has been actively involved in developing policy positions and recommendations to Government in areas relating to sustainable energy use, transport, water management and environmental monitoring.

Environment Business Australia promotes policies consistent with sustainable development, that support the environment management industry, and that help to make other industry sectors more efficient and competitive. The organisation has made a number of recommendations to the inquiry relating to infrastructure investment, Government tender processes, innovation investment and benchmarking performance.

The *Sustainable Cities 2025* inquiry began late last year with the issuing of a 20-page discussion paper. This is the thirteenth and possibly final public hearing for the inquiry.

Details of Thursday's hearing appear below.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R4
Parliament House, Canberra

11.00 a.m. Engineers Australia [sub #103]

11.45 a.m. Environment Business Australia [sub #92]

For **media comment**, contact: Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4879.

For **background information, including submissions, and copies of the discussion paper**, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ