



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 23 January 2004

Events: Tuesday 27 January – Sydney

How to make Australia's cities more healthy and sustainable: public hearings and roundtable

How to make Australia's cities more healthy and sustainable will be the topic discussed by key academics, health professionals, urban planners and community organisations at a public hearing and roundtable discussion in Sydney next Tuesday, 27 January, 2004.

The public meetings will be the first for a new House of Representatives Environment Committee inquiry into sustainable cities (*Sustainable Cities 2025*), which began late last year with the issuing of a 20-page discussion paper.

The *Sustainable Cities 2025* inquiry is looking at issues and policies relating to the impacts of sprawling urban development, measures to reduce the environmental, social and economic costs of continuing urban expansion and mechanisms for the Commonwealth to bring about urban development reform. The inquiry is also looking to develop a 'blueprint' for ecologically sustainable patterns of city settlement, with particular reference to eco-efficiency and equity in the provision of services and infrastructure.

The House Environment Committee Chair, Mr Bruce Billson MP, says the inquiry will examine how cities of the future can meet the social, environmental and economic needs of Australia within the unique context of the Australian landscape.

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

Details of who is appearing at next Tuesday's hearings appear below.

For **media comment**, please contact:
Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, on (03) 9781 2333.

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

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: The Wentworth Hotel

61 Phillip Street, Sydney

Ph: 02 9230 0700 Fax: 02 9227 9133

11.30 a.m.

Bicycle NSW [sub #54]

- Dr Gabrielle Kuiper, President
- Mr Neil Tonkin, Chief Executive Officer

12.15 p.m.

Central Sydney Area Health Service [sub #18]

- Dr Chris Rissel, Director, Health Promotion Unit

1:30 p.m.

Western Sydney Area Health Service [sub #106]

- Associate Professor Steven Boyages, Chief Executive Officer

2:15 p.m.

Australian Community Foods [sub #111]

- Mr John Brisbin, President

.../2 (MORE FOLLOWS)

- 3:00 p.m. **Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils** [sub #150]
➤ Ms Juanita Higgs, Regional Projects Manager
- 3:45 p.m. **University of Western Sydney (Urban Frontiers Program)** [sub #113]
➤ Professor Bill Randolph, Director
➤ Dr Ray Bunker, Senior Research Fellow
➤ Ms Anne Hurni, Research Fellow
➤ Mr Darren Holloway, Senior Research Officer

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- 5:00 p.m. **Australian National University**
➤ Professor Anthony McMichael, Director, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health
- University of Sydney**
➤ Professor Hal Kendig, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Sydney
➤ Dr Tony Capon
Medical Officer of Health, Western Sydney Area Health Service
& Clinical Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health
➤ Dr Stephen Leeder, Visiting Senior Research Scientist
Centre for Global Health and Economic Development, Columbia University, New York
[Professor of Public Health - University of Sydney]
- Victorian Health Promotion Foundation**
➤ Professor Rob Moodie, Chief Executive Officer
- Western Sydney Area Health Service**
➤ A/Prof Steven Boyages, Chief Executive Officer
- Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils**
➤ Mr Colin Berryman
- Centre for Mental Health, NSW Health Department**
➤ Prof Beverley Raphael, Director
- Deakin University, School of Health Sciences**
➤ Dr Mardie Townsend
- Public Health Association of Australia**
➤ Ms Pieta Laut, Executive Officer
- Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE), School of Public Health & Community Medicine, University of NSW**
➤ Ms Liz Harris, Director
- Dr Chloe Mason**
- 6.30 p.m. *Conclusion of program*