



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development & Local Government Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 30 March 2009

Chair: Catherine King MP

Helping regional Australia respond to the global financial crisis

Public hearings to begin

The House of Representatives Regional Development Committee will be travelling across Australia for its inquiry into the impact of the global financial crisis on regional Australia.

The Committee will begin holding public hearings in April in Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. These hearings will give the Committee an opportunity to discuss ways in which the Commonwealth Government can assist regional Australia to respond to the crisis.

Representatives of local and state government as well as regional and economic development bodies, business groups and community organisations will be attending the public hearings to discuss the encouragement of economic development and employment in their regions. Options to enhance the liveability of regional Australia and provide sustainable essential services will also be discussed.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings.

At the end of each public hearing, the Committee has set aside an open session where members of the public can raise issues with the Committee relating to this inquiry.

The first set of public hearings and open sessions will be held in the following locations:

Date	Location
20 April	Burnie
21 April	Launceston
22 April	Geelong
23 April	Ararat
29 April	Geraldton
30 April	Busselton
1 May	Mandurah

Further information about the Committee's inquiry, its public hearings and their exact locations can be found at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/itrdlg>

For media comment:

Please contact the Committee Chair, Catherine King, on 0409 855 946.

For background information:

Please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or by email at itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au