



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 14 April 2009

Chair: Catherine King MP

Helping regional Australia respond to the global financial crisis

Geelong and Ararat public hearings and forums

The House of Representatives Regional Development Committee is conducting a series of public hearings as part of its inquiry into the impact of the global financial crisis on regional Australia.

The Committee will be holding hearings in Geelong and Ararat, Victoria on the 22nd and 23rd of April. Public hearing participants have been invited by the Committee to discuss a range of issues including the economic and social impact of the crisis on their communities and ways in which the Commonwealth Government can assist regional Australia during this period. 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 Committee will also be visiting Tasmania and Western Australia during the month of April. Further hearings will follow later in the year. Hearings in Victoria are scheduled for:

- **Geelong**, Wednesday, 22 April 2009, City Hall – Meeting Room 5, 30 Gheringhap Street; and
- **Ararat**, Thursday, 23 April 2009, Ararat Business Park, Cnr Gordon & Elizabeth Street

The **Geelong** public hearing will be held between **9 am and 1.00 pm** with the public forum to follow.

The **Ararat** public hearing will be held between **9 am and 2.00 pm** with the public forum to follow.

Complete hearing programs can be found on the Committee's website:

<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