



## Federal parliamentary committee to visit regional Victoria

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee is visiting regional Victoria as part of its inquiry into the operation of the insurance industry during disaster events. The Committee will hold public hearings in Bridgewater and Charlton on Wednesday, 26 October 2011 and in Rochester and Strathewen on Thursday, 27 October 2011.

The public hearings will give the Committee a chance to meet with people who have encountered difficulties related to their insurance policies after the recent floods and fires. The Committee will also speak with local Councils, community groups and Legal Aid.

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Address</i>
Wednesday 26 October 11.45am-1.30pm	Bridgewater	Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Centre, Main Street, Bridgewater
Wednesday 26 October 3pm-5pm	Charlton	Charlton Hall, 9-11 Armstrong Street, Charlton
Thursday 27 October 8.30am-11.15am	Rochester	Presbyterian Church Hall, Cnr Victoria Street and Northern Highway, Rochester
Thursday 27 October 2.15pm-3.15pm	Strathewen	Strathewen Recreation Reserve Pavilion Building, Chadds Creek Rd, Strathewen

The Committee Chair, Graham Perrett MP, said, “Victoria, like Queensland, has suffered from devastating floods, and we would like to assess how efficiently insurance claims have been handled in the aftermath. We will also be visiting Strathewen to compare the insurance industry’s response to the fatal fires.”

### Information about the Committee:

The Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee is one of a number of committees in the House of Representatives at Australian Parliament House. Committees run parliamentary inquiries into various topics, and this Committee is currently holding an inquiry into the operation of the insurance industry during disaster events. Information about the inquiry, the full terms of reference, published submissions, and online survey are available on our website: [www.aph.gov.au/insurance](http://www.aph.gov.au/insurance).

As part of the inquiry, the Committee invites submissions from interested organisations and individuals, relating to the terms of reference, and encourages insurance policy-holders to participate in our online survey about their experiences with insurance claims arising out of extreme weather events.

In addition, the Committee holds public hearings around Australia to hear from affected communities and businesses and from various bodies related to insurance, such as insurance institutions, legal aid organisations, and financial advocacy groups. The evidence received at public hearings, the submissions to the inquiry, and the findings of the online survey will go towards the Committee’s final report on the inquiry. The report will contain a number of recommendations to the Federal Government aimed at improving the responsiveness of the insurance industry to disaster events.

*Note: The Committee cannot investigate or make rulings on particular insurance claims, but invites submissions which address the processes of insurance claims and dispute resolution, and invites policy-holders to complete the online survey.*

<b>For media comment</b> , please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.	
<b>For background information</b> , please contact the <b>Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs</b> :	
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