



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE,  
WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 26 October 2009*

*Chair—Jennie George MP  
Deputy Chair—Mal Washer MP*

## **Coastal zone inquiry** **— Report released tonight —**

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment, Water and the Arts Committee will present its **report into climate change and environmental impacts on the Australian coastal zone tonight** (approximately 9 pm).

The report, entitled *Managing our Coastal Zone in a Changing Climate: the Time to Act is Now*, will make recommendations to **improve the governance of our coastal zone**, as well as **manage climate change and environmental impacts on coastal areas**.

“It’s one thing to read about the science but another to see first hand, as we did, the obvious and early negative consequences of climate change on our coastal zone”, Committee Chair Ms George said.

“We trust that the Committee’s recommendations will chart the way forward in better managing our coastal zone”.

The inquiry generated a high level of interest from the Australian community, with over 100 written submissions and 180 exhibits. The Committee heard from over 170 witnesses at 28 public hearings held around Australia.

**Limited copies of the report (embargoed until tabling) will be available from 2 pm today (Monday, 26 October 2009) from the Committee Secretariat in R1.121.**

**For more detail on the inquiry, please visit the Committee website at: [www.aph.gov.au/ccwea](http://www.aph.gov.au/ccwea). Electronic copies of the report will be available to download from this website from Tuesday morning.**

The inquiry reported on the following terms of reference:

- existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, taking in the catchment-coast-ocean continuum
- the environmental impacts of coastal population growth and mechanisms to promote sustainable use of coastal resources
- the impact of climate change on coastal areas and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation, particularly in response to projected sea level rise
- mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities
- governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone