



ATT: Radio talk-back & TV CAFF producers

Interview / Story idea for Thursday/Friday

What would you ask the Reserve Bank Governor?

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA - www.rba.gov.au) is Australia's central bank, responsible for setting official **interest rates**. It also has oversight of the arrangements which allow consumers, businesses and other organisations to transfer funds between themselves and between financial institutions. This includes certain **credit card, EFTPOS and ATM fees**, known as 'interchange fees'.

Representatives of the Reserve are only publicly quizzed about their decision-making twice every year, each time by the **House of Representatives Economics Committee**. *This Friday is one of those hearings.*

STORY/SEGMENT IDEA:

As the hearing approaches, it might be interesting to ask the question: what would you like to ask the Governor of the Reserve Bank?

An interview could be conducted with the Chairman of the Committee which will question the Governor, asking about the process, and preparations etc, and then talk-back or a 'vox pop' conducted.

The Chairman of the House Economics Committee, **David Hawker MP**, will be available for both preview and review interview regarding the hearing. Please contact Geoff Dodd via the numbers below. An article from the new *About the House* magazine profiling the Committee is also available from Geoff.

For media queries or information contact:

House Economics Committee Media Liaison, Geoff Dodd
Tel: w 02 6277 2063; m 0401 143 724; email: geoff.dodd.reps@aph.gov.au

Further information about the hearing:

Bev Forbes (Secretary, House Economics Committee) tel: 02 6277 4587
email: EFPA.Reps@aph.gov.au

Public Hearing Program: Reserve Bank of Australia

Date & Time: Friday, 11 May 2001, 10.00am to 1.00pm
Location: Legislative Council Chamber - Victorian State Parliament House, Melbourne
Witnesses: **Reserve Bank of Australia**
Mr Ian Macfarlane, Governor; Mr Ric Battellino, Assistant Governor; Dr John F. Laker, Assistant Governor; Mr Glenn Stevens, Assistant Governor

Members of the House Economics Committee:

Chairman:	Mr David Hawker MP	
Deputy Chair:	Ms Anna Burke MP	
Members:	Mr Anthony Albanese MP	Ms Teresa Gambaro MP
	Mrs Kay Hull MP	Mr Mark Latham MP
	Mr Christopher Pyne MP	Ms Tanya Plibersek MP
	Hon Alex Somlyay MP	Dr Andrew Southcott MP