



**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Communications**

Chair: Ms Belinda Neal MP
Deputy Chair: Mrs Kay Hull MP

AFP High Tech Crime Operations before cyber crime Inquiry

High Tech Crime Operations, a specialist unit in the Australian Federal Police, will appear at a House of Representatives Communications Committee's public hearing for its Inquiry into Cyber Crime on Wednesday, 9 September.

Commander Neil Gaughan, head of the unit, will appear and answer questions about the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts against the burgeoning problem of cyber crime.

"All developed countries are increasing their efforts to combat new forms of organised online crime and deal with the threat of large scale hacking and theft of personal information. Cyber criminal are inventive and can use anonymity of the Internet to commit crimes on a large scale and evade detection and escape prosecution. We need to identify the challenges facing our law enforcement authorities to deal with the changing nature of crime," Committee Chair Belinda Neal said.

"It is imperative that Australia stay on top of e-security risks and the potential growth of cyber crime if we are to reap the benefits of the digital economy. The High Tech Operations unit plays a central role in the investigation cyber crime, and working with State and Territory police forces to develop a coordinated response".

"Australian consumers are exposed to the threat of cyber crime and E-security is something we should all be concerned about" she said.

The committee is interested in hearing the views of consumers, businesses and experts in the field, as well as federal, state and territory governments.

The Committee's second public hearing will be held **Wednesday, 9 September 2009 12.30 pm to 2 pm in Committee Room 1R4**. The hearing will be audio webcast on:
<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference can be obtained from the Committee's web site: www.aph.gov.au/coms or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4601.

The Australian Institute of Criminology publications on cyber crime can be obtained from the Institute's website: <http://www.aic.gov.au/>

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment: please contact Committee Chair Ms Belinda Neal MP on (02) 6277 4971

Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300