



ATT: National Media – Diary Reminder
PUBLIC HEARING, FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2005, SYDNEY

Next House Economics Committee
hearing with Reserve Bank Governor

How long can interest rates remain steady?

What does a stronger Australian dollar mean for the economy? Is the housing boom finally over? And what do the latest inflation figures mean for household mortgages?

All these questions will be asked next month on Friday 18 February in Sydney when the House of Representatives Economics Committee holds a public hearing with Reserve Bank Governor Ian Macfarlane and other representatives of the Reserve Bank. It will be Mr Macfarlane's first appearance before the new chairman of the House EFPA Committee, Bruce Baird.

The House Economics Committee holds two public hearings each year with the Reserve Bank. They are the only public forums at which the Governor of the Reserve is obliged to publicly answer questions about bank policy, including the outlook for interest rates.

The hearing will be held in the Sydney Room of the **All Seasons Menzies Hotel**, 14 Carrington Street, Sydney CBD.

WHO:	Reserve Bank questioned by House Economics Committee
WHAT:	Twice-yearly Public Hearing
WHERE:	All Seasons Menzies Hotel, Sydney Room, 14 Carrington Street, Sydney CBD
WHEN:	Friday 18 February 2005, 10.00am - 1.00pm

For media queries about hearing arrangements:

Please contact the House of Representatives media adviser, Andrew Dawson, on (02) 6277 2063 or mobile 0401 143 724.

For background information:

Please contact Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4564 or email efpa.reps@aph.gov.au.