



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 31 March 2004

Building codes and best practice in building design and construction

Canberra, Thursday 1 April 2004

The development of building codes and standards, and best practice in planning, design and construction of buildings will be the topic discussed at a public hearing in Canberra on Thursday, 1 April 2004. The public hearing is the eighth for the House of Representatives Environment Committee inquiry into sustainable cities.

As Australia moves to larger urban populations, the pressures on land, resource and waste management increase. To ensure that Australian cities of the future are clean, liveable and accessible places, the House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee is conducting an inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025*. The inquiry began late last year with the issuing of a 20-page discussion paper.

The *Sustainable Cities 2025* inquiry is looking at issues and policies relating to the impacts of sprawling urban development, measures to reduce the environmental, social and economic costs of continuing urban expansion and mechanisms for the Commonwealth to bring about urban development reform. The inquiry is also looking to develop a 'blueprint' for ecologically sustainable patterns of city settlement, with particular reference to eco-efficiency and equity in the provision of services and infrastructure.

The Environment Committee Chair, Mr Bruce Billson MP, says the inquiry will examine how cities of the future can meet the social, environmental and economic needs of Australia within the unique context of the Australian landscape.

"Integrating the built and natural environment in a sustainable manner requires planning and a clearly articulated strategy" Mr Billson said. "Identifying the issues and articulating a forward strategy for the nation is the target of this inquiry".

Appearing before the committee on Thursday are representatives of Master Builders Australia and the Australian Building Codes Board.

Master Builders Australia is the major Australian building and construction industry association. Its primary role is to promote the viewpoints and interests of the building and construction industry.

The Australian Building Codes Board is responsible for developing and managing a nationally uniform approach to technical building requirements, embodied in the Building Code of Australia.

Details of Thursday's hearing appear below.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R4
Parliament House, Canberra

11.00 am - 11.45 am **Master Builders Australia** [sub #129]

11.45 am - 12.30 pm **Australian Building Codes Board** [sub #165]

For **media comment**, contact: Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4879.

For **background information, including submissions, and copies of the discussion paper**, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ