



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 11 March 2009

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

Engineers Australia to discuss coastal vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will hear from Engineers Australia at a public hearing in Canberra on 12 March 2009 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

"Engineers Australia is the national peak body for engineering practitioners, covering all branches of engineering and with a membership of some 83,000. Its National Committee on Coastal and Ocean Engineering represents over 3,000 members with interests in this area, drawn from the private sector, research institutions and government organisations", Committee Chair Ms George said.

"Engineers Australia's submission emphasises that 'ad hoc' sea level rise policies and climate change adaptation measures risk 'inappropriate responses unless anchored by consistent information and approaches'".

"The Committee will be interested to discuss Engineers Australia's views on these and other matters," Ms George said.

The inquiry is examining the environmental impacts of coastal population growth and ways to promote sustainable use of coastal resources, and the impact of climate change on coastal areas, particularly projected sea level rise. The Committee is also looking at ways to promote sustainable coastal communities, as well as governance and institutional arrangements for Australia's coastal zone.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing, which will also be webcast (audio only) on the Parliament House website at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting>.

Public hearing schedule on 12 March 2009
Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

10.45am Engineers Australia

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccwea>.

For **media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Jennie George MP, on 02 6277 4260 (Canberra) or 02 4262 6122 (electorate office)

For **background information**, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or by email at ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au.