



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 20 May 2008*

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

## Climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coast

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee is conducting an inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

Committee Chair Jennie George emphasised the critical importance of the inquiry for Australia's coastal areas.

"Climate change has serious implications for coastal areas as much of Australia's population and infrastructure is in the coastal zone," Ms George said. "The growth in population along the coast is also increasing pressure on the environment in many areas."

"The committee has received excellent submissions to date, raising significant coastal management issues", Ms George said. "The committee is keen to hear the views of interested persons and groups across Australia and encourages them to put in their submissions by the end of May".

The inquiry will examine existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, ways to promote sustainable use of coastal resources and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation, particularly in response to projected sea level rise.

The committee is also looking at mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities, and governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone.

Submissions to the inquiry are now publicly available on the committee's website. The website will be regularly updated as new submissions are received.

The committee will accept submissions until **Friday, 30 May 2008**. Further details about the inquiry, including how to make a submission, 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](mailto:ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au).