



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW INQUIRY

House Environment Committee to examine the environmental impact of “sea change”

The House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee has received the terms of reference for an inquiry into the environmental implications of the ‘sea change’ phenomenon.

“The committee has a strong interest in coastal policy and we welcome the referral of this inquiry by the Minister,” said Committee Chair, Dr Mal Washer MP.

“The increase in population and the intensification of land use along the coast is undoubtedly increasing pressure on the environment in many areas. We are interested in examining the nature and extent of these environmental impacts and in identifying measures to reduce them. In keeping with our long standing interest in sustainability, we will also be examining mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities and to protect Australia’s coastline.”

The committee will initially develop an issues paper with a view to calling for submissions at the start of the next parliament.

The full terms of reference are as follows:

Inquiry into the Environmental Implications of the ‘Sea Change’ Phenomenon

The committee will inquire into and report on issues and policies related to environmental pressures experienced by Australian coastal areas as a result of the ‘sea change’ phenomenon.

The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- the environmental impacts of an increasing coastal population
- measures to reduce the environmental impacts of an expanding coastal population
- mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities and protect Australia’s coastline.

For **media comment**, please contact:
Dr Mal Washer, House Environment Committee Chair, on 02 6277 2114

For **background information**, please contact the Committee Secretary, Janet Holmes, on (02) 6277 4580

