



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 12 November 2008

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

Planning Institute of Australia to discuss coastal zone planning

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will hear from the Planning Institute of Australia at a public hearing in Canberra on 13 November 2008 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

"PIA is the national peak body for planners, representing some 5,000 planning professionals across Commonwealth, state and local government, and the private sector", Committee Chair Ms George said.

"Planners, along with architects and engineers, have crucial roles to play in building Australia's ability to adapt to a changing climate. Early planning for the impacts of climate change, and appropriate adaptation strategies that reduce the vulnerability of natural ecosystems and infrastructure to these impacts, are likely to bring considerable cost advantages."

"The Committee looks forward to hearing PIA's views on these matters," Ms George said.

The inquiry will examine existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, ways to promote sustainable use of coastal resources, and strategies for climate change adaptation. 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: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting>.

Public hearing schedule on 13 November 2008
Venue: Committee Room 2S1, Parliament House, Canberra

10.45am Planning Institute of 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.