



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 3 April 2009

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

State and local government representatives to discuss coastal zone management in WA

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will be holding a public hearing in Perth on Tuesday, 7 April 2009 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

The Committee will hear from the Western Australian Department of Planning and Infrastructure, the Western Australian Local Government Association and the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.

"The submission from the WA Department of Planning and Infrastructure notes that the 'potential impacts of climate change on coastal communities are of particular importance to Western Australia because of the length of the WA coastline and the concentration of development in coastal towns and cities,'" Committee Chair Ms George said.

"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 is interested in discussing these issues with state and local government representatives in Perth", Ms George said.

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

Public hearing schedule 7 April 2009

Venue: Meeting Room 2, Legislative Assembly Committee Office, Brand Agency Building, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth

**9.00 am Western Australian Department of Planning and Infrastructure
10.00 am Western Australian Local Government Association
11.00 am Northern Agricultural Catchments Council**

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.