



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 2 March 2006

NEW INQUIRY INTO A SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

Inquiry draws on successful *Sustainable Cities* report

The House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee is to conduct an inquiry into the potential development of a national Sustainability Charter for Australia.

On 12 September 2005 the House of Representatives Standing Committee tabled the *Sustainable Cities* report. The committee called for the development of a Sustainability Charter based on measurable outcomes, over a certain period, with intermediate milestones.

The inquiry will target the following areas:

1. The built environment;
2. Water;
3. Energy;
4. Transport; and,
5. Ecological footprint.

Committee Chair, Dr Mal Washer, said that the charter should be aspirational. It must provide targets for the Australian community to meet and, once those targets have been met they must be re-assessed so new targets can be put in place.

"The committee is looking to provide the Australian Government with information on how to proceed with the Sustainability Charter" Dr Washer said.

"A great deal of work has been done on putting objectives in place by many organisations and countries. The Committee aims to incorporate information from these and to report on measurable objectives that the Australian Government should include in a Sustainability Charter."

The committee is seeking written submissions by Friday May 12 2006.

Submissions can be e-mailed to environment.reps@aph.gov.au or sent to the following address:

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Further information, including the terms of reference, a discussion paper and advice on making submissions, can be found at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ/index.htm> or obtained by phoning the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or emailing at environment.reps@aph.gov.au

For media comment, contact: Dr Mal Washer, House Environment Committee Chair, on (08) 9300 2244.