



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 23 March 2009

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

Coastal representatives attend Sydney hearing

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee will hear from a range of organisations and individuals at a public hearing in Sydney on Wednesday, 25 March and Thursday, 26 March 2009 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

Those appearing before the Committee include the NSW Government; the National Sea Change Taskforce and other local government groups; the Insurance Council of Australia; the Australian Conservation Foundation and other environmental groups; the Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices; industry representatives; and leading coastal researchers, including Professor Bruce Thom and Professor Colin Woodroffe.

"The NSW Government recently released its draft sea level rise policy and planning benchmarks," Committee Chair Ms George said.

"The Committee will be interested to discuss the implications of this draft policy and other matters with those attending the hearing."

Public hearing schedule 25–26 March 2009

Venue: Level 2, Cliftons Conference Facilities, 190 George St, Sydney

Wednesday, 25 March 2009

9.00 am NSW Government
10.00 am Insurance Council of Australia
11.15 am Sydney Coastal Councils Group
1.30 pm Maritime Union of Australia
1.45 pm Australian Conservation Foundation
3.00 pm Professor Alistair McIlgorm, University of New England and Southern Cross University
3.30 pm Nature Conservation Council of NSW
4.00 pm Pittwater, Manly and Byron Councils, Southern Rivers Catchment Authority
5.00 pm Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW

Thursday, 26 March 2009

9.00 am National Sea Change Taskforce
10.00 am Professor Colin Woodroffe, University of Wollongong
11.00 am Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices
12.00 noon Ocean Watch Australia
1.30 pm Professor Bruce Thom
2.15 pm Private individual
2.30 pm Lake Wollumboola Protection Association and Climate Action Newcastle

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.