



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Climate Change Committee visits Broome

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee is visiting Broome on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th August as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

Committee Chair Jennie George emphasised the critical importance of the inquiry for Australia's coastal areas.

"Climate change has serious implications for coastal areas as much of Australia's population and infrastructure is in the coastal zone," Ms George said. "The growth in population along the coast is also increasing pressure on the environment in many areas."

The Committee has been examining existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, ways to promote sustainable use of coastal resources and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation, particularly in response to projected sea level rise. The committee is also looking at mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities, and governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone.

"The committee has received excellent submissions to date, raising significant coastal management issues", Ms George said. "The Committee is visiting Broome to listen to local views on climate change issues, as well as the broader impacts of environmental policies and legislation".

In Broome, the Committee is speaking with representatives from Broome Shire and the Broome Chamber of Commerce, as well as Save the Kimberley, Environs Kimberley, the Conservation Council of WA, the Roebuck Bay Working Group, and the World Wildlife Fund.

The inquiry is in its final stages, and the Committee hopes to present its report to Parliament by the end of October. Further details about the inquiry (including submissions received and transcripts of public hearings held to date) can be obtained from the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccwea>.

Hearings will be held at BRACs (Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre, Cable Beach Road East), and a copy of the program is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ccwea/coastalzone/hearings.htm>

For **media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Ms Jennie George MP, on 02 4262 6122 (electorate office) or mobile 0418 784455

For **background information**, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or by email at ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au