



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 3 October 2008*

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

## **Government and environmental groups attend Adelaide coastal inquiry**

The South Australian Government will appear before the House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee at a public hearing in Adelaide on Wednesday 8 October 2008 as part of the Committee's inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

"Sea level rise and increased storm surge are a major risk to settlements and infrastructure along Australia's coasts," Committee Chair Ms George said.

"The South Australian Government submission highlights the importance of high-resolution digital elevation models of the coast to assess the potential impacts of climate change induced sea level rise."

"We will be interested in hearing how this information can be used by decision-makers to inform the development of adaptation responses," Ms George said.

Three-dimensional maps of ground surface topography, known as digital elevation models or DEMs, assist in identifying areas of likely exposure to inundation from sea level rise. The Australian Government is currently using high-resolution digital elevation models to map priority urban areas around Australia, including Adelaide, to assess the inundation risks from climate change.

The Committee will also hear from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the Conservation Council of South Australia.

"The Committee is keen to hear from local government representatives and South Australia's peak environmental group about coastal management issues facing the state," Ms George said.

The inquiry is 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. The Committee is also looking at ways to promote sustainable coastal communities, as well as governance and institutional arrangements for Australia's coastal zone.

### **Public hearing schedule on 8 October 2008**

**Venue: Old Chamber, Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide**

**8.45am South Australian Government**  
**9.45am City of Port Adelaide Enfield**  
**10.45am Conservation Council of South 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](mailto:ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au).

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