

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES Issued: 19 August 2009

Chair: Senator Kate Lundy

The changing economic environment of the Indian Ocean Territories

Federal Parliament's External Territories Committee is holding three public hearings in Canberra with federal government departments as part of its inquiry into the changing economic environment in the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

"This inquiry is an opportunity for the committee to examine possible measures for improving economic development for the Indian Ocean Territories within the context of information communications technology, transportation, Government services and programs including housing. More broadly, the committee will also examine the impact of climate change on the Indian Ocean Territories," Committee Chair Senator Kate Lundy said.

The hearing program is shown below:

Wednesday, 19 August Committee Room 1R2 Parliament House, Canberra		Wednesday, 9 September Committee Room 1R2 Parliament House, Canberra		Wednesday, 16 September Committee Room 1R2 Parliament House, Canberra	
12.45 pm	Attorney-General's Department	12.45 pm	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	12.45 pm	Economic Development Officer, Attorney- General's Department
1.45 pm	Adjournment	1.15 pm	Department of Immigration and Citizenship	1.30 pm	Ms Dee Margetts and Dr Nic Dunlop
		1.45 pm	Adjournment	1.55 pm	Adjournment

Further details about the inquiry can be obtained from the committee's website at <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/index.htm</u> or by contacting the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 4355** or emailing <u>jscncet@aph.gov.au</u>.

An audio webcast of proceedings can be accessed at http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

To arrange media comment: Please contact the Chair of the Committee, Senator Kate Lundy (02) 6230 0411 (electorate office).