



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE  
Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Senate inquiry into a possible cancer cluster on the  
Bellarine Peninsula

Cancellation of public hearing in Barwon Heads

Issue date: 4 February 2021

**Cancellation of public hearing**

As part of its inquiry into investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria, the Senate Community Affairs References Committee had planned a public hearing on 10 February 2021 on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 concerns in Victoria this week, the committee has made the decision to cancel this public hearing, which was to be held at Barwon Heads.

The committee's chair, Senator Rachel Siewert said:

'This cancellation is unfortunate, but the committee's priority has to be safety for all concerned. The committee remains determined to visit the Bellarine Peninsula to hear directly from people in the community about their concerns.'

Another public hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

**Further information**

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca).

**Media enquiries:** Office of Senator Rachel Siewert, Committee Chair on (02) 6277 3587.

**For background information:** contact the committee secretariat.

**Inquiry Terms of Reference**

Investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, with particular reference to:

- (a) the health concerns of local residents;
- (b) the incidence of cancer cases in the area, and any possible environmental or other contributing factors;
- (c) the evidence, approach and outcomes concerning the Victorian Chief Health Officer's investigation of cancer rates on the Bellarine Peninsula; and
- (d) any other related matter.

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**DATE REFERRED**

17 October 2019

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**SUBMISSIONS CLOSED**

27 March 2020

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1 May 2020

20 November 2020

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**REPORTING DATE**

18 March 2021

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Senator Rachel Siewert  
(Chair)

Senator Wendy Askew  
(Deputy Chair)

Senator Catryna Bilyk  
Senator Hollie Hughes

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy

Senator Anne Urquhart

*Participating member:*

Senator the Hon Sarah  
Henderson

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**CONTACT THE COMMITTEE**

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