



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

Inquiry into the Australian coastal zone

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 17 September 2008*

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

## **Emergency planning for coastal climate change impacts**

Emergency planning for climate change impacts on coastal areas as well as for the territories administered by the Attorney-General's Department will be on the agenda of a public hearing to be held in Canberra on 18 September 2008 by the House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

"Emergency Management Australia will have a crucial role to play in disaster prevention, response and recovery in the face of projected climate change impacts on coastal areas of Australia, particularly in response to projected sea level rise", Committee Chair Ms George said.

"Australia's territories of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands, Jervis Bay, and Norfolk Island territories may all be vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and there could be major consequences for the biodiversity, community and infrastructure of Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay."

"The Committee looks forward to hearing from Emergency Management Australia and Territories West and Territories East on these important matters," Ms George said.

The terms of reference provide for the committee to inquire into climate change and environmental pressures experienced by Australian coastal areas. The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, taking in the catchment-coast-ocean continuum
- the environmental impacts of coastal population growth and mechanisms to promote sustainable use of coastal resources
- the impact of climate change on coastal areas and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation, particularly in response to projected sea level rise
- mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities
- governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this hearing.

**Public hearing schedule on 18 September 2008**  
**Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra**

**10.45 am Emergency Management Australia and Territories West and Territories East from the Attorney-General's Department**

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).