



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Issued: 10 March 2004

## **Sustainability principles and frameworks: public hearing and roundtable with peak bodies and local councils**

***Melbourne, Tuesday 16 March 2004***

The Australian Conservation Foundation, CSIRO and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives are a few of the high profile organisations that will appear at a public hearing in Melbourne on Tuesday, 16 March 2004. The public hearing is the sixth for the House of Representatives Environment Committee inquiry into sustainable cities. The day's proceedings will also include a roundtable discussion with twelve local government organisations from Melbourne and regional Victoria.

As Australia moves to larger urban populations, the pressures on land, resource and waste management increase. To ensure that Australian cities of the future are clean, liveable and accessible places, the House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee is conducting an inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025*. The inquiry began late last year with the issuing of a 20-page discussion paper.

The *Sustainable Cities 2025* inquiry is looking at issues and policies relating to the impacts of sprawling urban development, measures to reduce the environmental, social and economic costs of continuing urban expansion and mechanisms for the Commonwealth to bring about urban development reform. The inquiry is also looking to develop a 'blueprint' for ecologically sustainable patterns of city settlement, with particular reference to eco-efficiency and equity in the provision of services and infrastructure.

The Environment Committee Chair, Mr Bruce Billson MP, says the inquiry will examine how cities of the future can meet the social, environmental and economic needs of Australia within the unique context of the Australian landscape.

"Integrating the built and natural environment in a sustainable manner requires planning and a clearly articulated strategy" Mr Billson said. "Identifying the issues and articulating a forward strategy for the nation is the target of this inquiry".

Details of who is appearing at Tuesday's hearings appear below.

### **PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE**

*Venue:* Council Committee Room  
Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne

- 10.30 a.m.      **Australian Conservation Foundation and Environment Victoria** [sub #162]
- 11.30 a.m.      **CSIRO** [sub #91]
- 1.00 p.m.        **Victorian Government** [sub #156]
- 2:00 p.m.        **Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy** [sub #134]
- 2:45 p.m.        **Integrating Sustainability** [sub #27]
- 3:45 p.m.        **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives** [sub #72]
- 5:00 p.m.        **Roundtable discussions** [*invited participants only*]
  - City of Melbourne** [sub #109]
  - City of Darebin** [sub #29]
  - Bayside City Council** [sub #101]

**City of Port Phillip** [sub #40]

**Interface Councils** [sub #146]

**Nillumbik Shire Council** [sub #137]

**Cardinia Shire Council** [sub #61]

**Mornington Peninsula Shire** [sub #104]

**Hume City Council**

**Wyndham City Council**

**City of Whittlesea**

**Regional Cities Victoria** [sub #98]

**Wodonga City Council**

**Latrobe City Council**

6:30 p.m.      End of program.

For **media comment**, contact: Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4879.

For **background information, including submissions, and copies of the discussion paper**, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ)