



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEDIA RELEASE

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Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

The role of landscape architects in the development of sustainable cities

Canberra, Thursday 25 March 2004

The role of landscape architects in the development of sustainable cities will be the topic discussed at a public hearing in Canberra on Thursday, 25 March 2004. The public hearing is the seventh for the House of Representatives Environment Committee inquiry into sustainable cities.

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".

Appearing before the committee on Thursday are representatives of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects is a professional body that represents Australia's landscape architects, and came into being formally in 1967. The organisation provides the primary leadership, structure and network to effectively harness and focus the intellectual energy of Australian landscape architects in the creation of more meaningful, enjoyable, equitable and sustainable environments.

Details of Thursday's hearing appear below.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R4
Parliament House, Canberra

11.00 - 11.45 a.m. **Australian Institute of Landscape Architects** [sub #19 and #172]

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