



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 28 April 2004

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

Sustainable development and sustainability reporting

Adelaide, Thursday 29 April 2004

The South Australia Government, the Sustainable Transport Coalition Western Australia and the Hickinbotham Group building and development company are among the witnesses appearing at a public hearing in Adelaide on Thursday, 29 April 2004. The public hearing is the tenth for the House of Representatives Environment Committee inquiry into sustainable cities. The committee will also hear from Dr David Ness and the non-profit Urban Ecology Australia.

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 witnesses appearing at Thursday's hearings are below.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Boulevard Room
Stamford Plaza
150 North Terrace, Adelaide

9.45 a.m. **South Australia Government** [sub #128]

10.30 a.m. **Urban Ecology Australia** [sub #63]

11.30 a.m. **Sustainable Transport Coalition Western Australia** [sub #148]

1.15 a.m. **Hickinbotham Group** [sub #51]

2.15 p.m. **Dr David Ness** [sub #25]

3:00 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

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