



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 11 May 2004

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

Planning for sustainability: multi-modal transport networks for our cities

Canberra, Thursday 13 May 2004

... will be the topic discussed at a public hearing in Canberra on Thursday, 13 May 2004. The public hearing is the eleventh 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 Bus Industry Confederation and the Australasian Railway Association.

The Bus Industry Confederation (BIC) represents the interests of bus operators, suppliers and associated businesses. BIC considers that growth in travel by public transport is an effective way to reduce the economic, social and environmental costs associated with excessive use of the private car.

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA) represents the interests of both private and government rail operators, and companies associated with rail manufacture, supply, maintenance and construction. The ARA considers that infrastructure investment decisions should take greater account of the sustainability of rail.

Details of Thursday's hearing appear below.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R4
Parliament House, Canberra

11.00 am - 12.00 pm **Bus Industry Confederation** [sub #97]

Australasian Railway Association [sub #82]

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

Telephone: 02 6277 4580
Facsimile: 02 6277 4424
E-mail: Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600