



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 11 November 2002

Public Hearing - Thursday 12 December - Canberra

Inquiry into Employment in the Environment Sector

The House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee is inquiring into the current contribution of environmental goods and services to employment in Australia, and the potential for future growth.

In particular, the Committee is interested in examining how **federal policy** can assist future growth to be achieved.

The Committee is also interested in ensuring that Australia has an **appropriately skilled workforce** to service environmental needs, and in examining possible **information and reporting systems** that would boost the uptake of environmental goods and services, enhance overall business performance, and assist development of the sector.

The Committee will hold the fourth **public hearing** of its inquiry this **Thursday, 12 December** to hear from the Department of Environment and Heritage.

The **Department of Environment and Heritage** has broad responsibility for administering over 20 pieces of environmental legislation. The Department encompasses **Environment Australia** and a number of portfolio agencies and statutory authorities including the **Bureau of Meteorology**, the **Australian Greenhouse Office**, the **National Oceans Office** and the **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**.

Public Hearing, Thursday 12 December 2002

Who: The Department of Environment and Heritage
Where: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra
When: Thursday, 12 December, 11.00 am – 12.00 pm

The House Environment Committee will hold further public hearings around Australia in 2003.

Background: Environmental goods and services can be broadly interpreted to include activities such as production of pollution reduction equipment, employment of environmental consultants and workers in the public sector involved in national park management, as well as provision of services in related activities such as tourism, and conservation and environmental management in agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

For media comment, please contact:

Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, tel (02) 6277 4879 (Parliament House office)

For more detail on the inquiry, including submissions, please contact:

The House Environment Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or visit the inquiry web site at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/envIRON/greenjobs/index.htm