



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 25 February 2003

Public Hearing –Wednesday 26 February 2003 - Melbourne

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 hear from the **Civil Contractors Federation** and the **Water Industry Operators Association** who represent individuals and organisations working in the environmental sector and facing the challenge of skilling workers for new innovations and regulations.

GreenChip Pty Ltd is a consulting company providing advice to companies on the social and economic returns of sustainable business practices.

Others scheduled to give evidence include **Associate Professor Barry Meehan** who teaches a range of tertiary environmental management courses and the **Melbourne Environmental Jobs Network** which runs an on-line database to assist graduates find employment in the environmental sector.

**Public Hearing, Wednesday 26 February 2003
Conference Room 8, Commonwealth Government Offices
35 Spring St, Melbourne**

9.00 – 10.00 am	Associate Professor Barry Meehan
10.00 – 11.00 am	Civil Contractors Federation
1.30 – 2.30 pm	GreenChip Pty Ltd
2.30 – 3.30 pm	Melbourne Environmental Jobs Network
3.30 – 4.30 pm	Water Industry Operators Association

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