



Inquiry into meteorological forecasting

Report released tonight

The House of Representatives Industry, Science and Innovation Committee will table its **report into long-term meteorological forecasting in Australia** tonight (approximately 9.20pm).

The report, entitled *Seasonal forecasting in Australia*, will make recommendations to boost Australia's capacity to provide suitable and meaningful seasonal forecasting products for weather sensitive industries.

"Australia is a vast landmass with a diverse range of climatic conditions and many of our economically important industries are crucially dependent on long-term meteorological forecasting", Committee Chair Maria Vamvakinou said.

"We trust that the Committee's recommendations will help to improve the viability and reliability of seasonal forecasting in Australia."

The inquiry generated a high level of interest from the Australian scientific community, agricultural industries and emergency service providers, receiving 34 submissions, four supplementary submissions and 11 exhibits. The Committee heard from 41 witnesses at nine public hearings held around Australia.

The inquiry reported on the following terms of reference:

- The efficacy of current climate modelling methods and techniques and long-term meteorological prediction systems;
- Innovation in long-term meteorological forecasting methods and technology;
- The impact of accurate measurement of inter-seasonal climate variability on decision-making processes for agricultural production and other sectors such as tourism;
- Potential benefits and applications for emergency response to natural disasters, such as bushfire, flood, cyclone, hail, and tsunami, in Australia and in neighbouring countries; and
- Strategies, systems and research overseas that could contribute to Australia's innovation in this area.

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Ms Maria Vamvakinou, on 0417 541 465.

For further information: contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4594, or isi.reps@aph.gov.au.

For more details on the inquiry, please visit the Committee website at: www.aph.gov.au/isi. Electronic copies of the report will be available to download from this website from Tuesday morning.