



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 30 May 2006

Chair: Mal Washer MP

Deputy Chair: Jennie George MP

House Committee to examine Environment Department's green credentials

The Department of Environment and Heritage will address the findings of an audit of the federal government's green office procurement programs at a public hearing in Canberra on Thursday 1 June.

The public hearing will be held at 10:30 am in Committee Room 1R4 in Parliament House.

The hearing is the second for an inquiry the House of Representatives Environment Committee into the development of a national sustainability charter.

Committee Chair Dr Mal Washer said that the inquiry will provide the federal government with information on how to proceed with the development of a national sustainability charter.

The Committee will build on the work already done by some of the states and in some other countries. It will take information from these sources and incorporate it in a report that will recommend national objectives to the federal government.

In September 2005, the Committee tabled the *Sustainable Cities* report, which called for the development of a Sustainability Charter based on measurable outcomes, over a certain period, with intermediate milestones.

"The committee is concerned that the audit of green procurement identified significant short comings in the federal government's management of the environmental impacts of its procurement decisions, and the Department of Environment and Heritage has a strong role in addressing issues raised by the audit." Dr Washer said.

Further information about the inquiry and the committee's public hearing, including the terms of reference, a discussion paper and advice on making submissions, can be found at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ/index.htm>

or obtained by phoning the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or emailing to: environment.reps@aph.gov.au

For **media comment**, contact: Dr Mal Washer, House Environment Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 2114

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