



Appendix A: Inquiry process

Adoption of the inquiry

The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, and Senator the Hon Penny Wong, the Minister for Climate Change and Water, on 20 March 2008.

Conduct of inquiry

The inquiry was advertised in the national press¹ and on the Committee's website. Invitations to lodge submissions were sent to over 150 individuals and organisations with a possible interest in the matter, including State Premiers and Chief Ministers. The Committee received 107 submissions, 21 supplementary submissions and 180 exhibits.² Details are at Appendices B and D to this report.

The Committee held 28 public hearings, from July 2008 to August 2009, in Canberra, the Central Coast of New South Wales, Darwin, Adelaide, Hobart, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne and Broome. The dates and locations of these public hearings, including details of witnesses who appeared before the Committee, are at Appendix C.

1 *The Australian* on 2 April 2008.

2 Due to variations in pagination style among submissions received, footnote references in this report generally refer to the electronic page number of the submission as published on the Committee's web site. Similarly, page references in transcripts are to the document as it appears electronically, not as it may appear in hard copy, because of variations in printer drivers.

The Committee also undertook nine site inspections to coastal areas vulnerable to climate change and environmental impacts, including the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland; the Central Coast, New South Wales; Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory; Port Adelaide and Salisbury, South Australia; Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site, Hobart; Cottesloe, Mandurah and Busselton, Western Australia; the Gold Coast and Moreton Bay, Queensland; Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne; and James Price Point, Western Australia.³ Case studies on some of these site inspections are included in the report.

Submissions to the inquiry, transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings and an electronic copy of the report are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ccwea/coastalzone/index.htm>.

3 Thanks go to Ms Adrienne Batts, Committee Office, for some of the photos from the Committee's site inspections that have been reproduced in this report.