



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 4 June 2004

Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage

A Charter for Sustainable Australian Cities *Sydney, Tuesday 8 June 2004*

A Charter for Sustainable Australian Cities will be one of the proposals discussed by the House of Representatives Environment Committee at a public hearing in Sydney on Tuesday, 8 June 2004.

A number of witnesses are appearing before the Environment Committee including: representatives from Middle Way consulting, the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering, the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of New South Wales, the Australian Water Association, Origin Energy, the Railway Technical Society of Australasia, the Housing Industry Association and the Planning Institute of Australia.

To ensure that Australian cities of the future are clean, liveable and accessible places, the Environment Committee is conducting an inquiry into *Sustainable Cities 2025*. The inquiry began late last year with the issuing of a 20-page discussion paper. This is the twelfth public hearing for the inquiry.

The *Sustainable Cities 2025* inquiry is looking at developing a national blueprint and set of objectives for sustainable Australian cities. A key issue is the type of governance structures and policies needed to achieve this, and how the three tiers of government can cooperatively work towards sustainability in our metropolitan areas.

"Integrating the built and natural environment in a sustainable manner requires planning and a clearly articulated strategy," said the Environment Committee Chair, Mr Bruce Billson MP. "Identifying the issues and articulating a forward strategy for the nation is the target of this inquiry".

A Charter for Sustainable Australian Cities is a proposal put forward by the Planning Institute of Australia. A Charter would coordinate Commonwealth, State and Territory interests as they relate to urban development, and possibly set out sustainable development targets and milestones.

Details of Tuesday's hearing appear below.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Powerhouse Museum - Boardroom
500 Harris Street, Ultimo
Sydney

- 11:00 a.m. **Middle Way Pty Ltd** [sub #32]
- 11:30 a.m. **The Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering** [sub #73]
- 12.15 p.m. **University of New South Wales Faculty of Built Environment** [sub #41]
- 2.30 p.m. **Australian Water Association** [sub #112]
- 3.00 p.m. **Origin Energy** [sub #143]
- 3.30 p.m. **Railway Technical Society of Australasia** [sub #166 and 186]
- 4.15 p.m. **Housing Industry Association** [sub #122]
- 5.00 p.m. **Planning Institute of Australia** [sub #168]

Members of the public wishing to attend the public hearing should approach the front counter of the Powerhouse Museum. There is no charge to enter the Museum to attend the hearing.

For **media comment**, contact: Bruce Billson, House Environment Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4879.

For **background information, including submissions, and copies of the discussion paper**, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ

Telephone: 02 6277 4580
Facsimile: 02 6277 4424
E-mail: Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600