



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development & Local Government Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 12 February 2009

Chair: Catherine King MP

The global financial crisis and regional Australia

Catherine King MP, Chair of the House of Representatives Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Committee has today announced that the Committee will conduct an inquiry into the impact of the global financial crisis on regional Australia.

Ms King said the inquiry will also make recommendations about the role the Australian Government should play in ensuring regional Australia can respond to the economic crisis.

“Effects of the global financial crisis are being felt right across the nation,” Ms King said.

“However regional areas of Australia tend to feel the impacts of economic downturns before metropolitan areas as they do not have the same capacity to absorb job losses and economic declines as the capital cities do.”

“This inquiry the Committee is embarking upon will identify some of the key challenges facing Australia’s regional areas and will recommend ways in which the Commonwealth Government can assist in enhancing the liveability of these regions in order to secure future growth and prosperity.”

“It will have a particular focus on supporting regional economies and jobs, as well as the development of essential services and social infrastructure to enhance liveability.”

“This is a very important piece of work for the Committee to undertake to ensure regional Australia continues to be supported through these challenging economic times,” Ms King said.

The inquiry has been requested by the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, with the objective of ensuring that the Commonwealth Government is well placed to help regional Australia respond to the global financial crisis.

The full terms of reference for the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or via the website.

Submissions will be received until **27 March 2009** and can be e-mailed to itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au or sent to:

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Govt. Committee
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Further information and advice on making submissions, can be found at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/itrdlg/index.htm>

For media comment: Please contact Keryl Datson on (03) 5338 8123 or 0409 855 946.

For background information: Please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or by email at itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au