



Standing Committee on Social Issues

**INQUIRY INTO COMMONWEALTH WORKCHOICES
LEGISLATION**

Members of the Wollongong and South Coast communities are being invited to have their say on the impact of the recent WorkChoices industrial relations laws when a parliamentary committee visits Wollongong on **Thursday 27 July 2006**.

As part of its inquiry into the impact of the Commonwealth Government’s WorkChoices legislation, NSW Parliament’s Social Issues Committee is hosting a public forum from 11.15 am at the Council Chambers, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong. Participants will be asked to state their views on the effects of the legislation, for example, its impact on workers’ rights and bargaining power, on employers, on disadvantaged groups, on work and family balance, and on rural and regional communities.

Members of the public are invited to register their interest in participating in the forum.

The Committee Chair, Jan Burnswoods MLC, stated today, “We’re holding this forum so that people from Wollongong and the South Coast can speak directly to politicians about their views on the impact of this legislation. The Committee has heard from a number of experts and bodies such as unions, but it’s also really important that we hear what community members themselves think of the issues.”

“You may have a personal story to tell of the impact of the legislation. You may know someone who has been affected by it, or you may simply have a perspective you wish to share. Whatever your views are, we want you to come along and tell us.” Ms Burnswoods continued, “This is an issue where regional communities in the South Coast and southern New South Wales especially need to be heard.”

The Committee will also hear from representatives of the South Coast Labour Council about their views on the legislation.

The Committee consists of members of the Government, Opposition and minor parties. It has held a number of public hearings and continues to accept submissions to the inquiry. At the end of the inquiry the Committee will report to Parliament with recommendations for government action. The opinions stated at the forum will feed into the report.

It is necessary to register your interest in speaking at the forum, or attending it. To do so, please telephone the Committee secretariat on (02) 9230 2193 or email socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au. Further information about the inquiry is also available from the NSW Parliament website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues.

Depending on the number of people who register, a ballot may be held to select speakers.

**For comment please contact the Hon Jan Burnswoods, MLC,
Committee Chair, on 9230 2488 or 0419 412 154.**