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MEDIA RELEASE

Public hearing in Coffs Harbour to hear evidence on skill shortages

The Committee on Economic Development will hold a public hearing in Coffs Harbour as part of its Inquiry into Skill Shortages in NSW, Committee Chair, Mr David Elliott MP announced today. The Committee will take evidence from stakeholders in the Coffs Harbour region about skill shortages in NSW. "The Committee heard evidence at its recent hearing in Dubbo about issues regional communities are facing with skill shortages and is keen to explore whether similar issues are present in the Coffs Harbour region," Mr Elliott said.

The hearing is scheduled for **Monday 16 September 2013** and witnesses include representatives from Local Government, the tourism industry, higher education, Regional Development authorities and local business.

"From the evidence the Committee has received to date, some common issues are arising including a lack of data on actual skill shortages across the state, improved support and encouragement for skilled migrants in regional communities, and the need for access to training and practical work experience for members of regional communities," Mr Elliott said.

The public hearing will be held in the Committee Room of the Coffs Harbour City Council, commencing at 9:30am and interested members of the public are welcome to attend.

Further information about the Inquiry can be obtained by visiting the Committee's website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/economicdevelopment, or by contacting the Chair, Mr David Elliott MP on 0414 778 858

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