

Public hearing on water quality

TOWNSVILLE district residents have the chance to discuss their concerns about water quality with the Federal Government today.

The Senate Inquiry into Urban Water Management is holding a public hearing at the Townsville City Council chambers.

North Queensland Senator Jan McLucas said it was important the committee understood the need for all coastal towns to manage their run-off effectively to minimise the impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

“The issues that cities like Townsville and Thuringowa face are different from the major capital cities,” Senator McLucas said.

“We live in an extremely sensitive area in an environmental sense.”

Committee head, Democrats Senator Lyn Allison, who will host the hearing, said the committee would hear testimony from Townsville-based water quality experts to assess future effects of water quality on the reef.

With a reporting deadline of June 27, the committee has received 60 submissions.

Local submissions came from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Townsville City Council, the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.