



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 3 April 2003

## **Inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities**

### ***Public hearings in Melbourne, Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 April 2003***

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee is examining the role of the Commonwealth in ensuring an adequate and sustainable future water supply for communities and industries in rural and regional Australia.

As part of its inquiry, the Committee will visit Melbourne on Monday and Tuesday next week (7 & 8 April) to gather evidence from peak bodies, landowners and water management authorities. The Committee will also take evidence from Pratt Water.

Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, says the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia, with more than 130 submissions received from concerned organisations and individuals.

"Getting water management right, which includes the balance of allocations between different users, is crucial not only for the prosperity of rural Australia, but the nation as a whole," Mrs Elson said.

"We cannot afford, as a nation, to manage water in an ineffective or inefficient way. The Committee has already received some good suggestions for improvements and is looking for more ideas."

Media and the public are most welcome to attend the public hearings, details of which appear below.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS: 7 & 8 April 2003 in Melbourne**

##### **Monday, 7 April 2003 from 10.30am to 12.45pm at 35 Spring Street, Melbourne**

##### **Scheduled Witnesses:**

Pratt Water  
Lawson Consulting

##### **Tuesday, 8 April 2003 from 9.00am to 1.00pm at 35 Spring Street, Melbourne**

##### **Scheduled Witnesses:**

National Competition Council  
Victorian Farmers Federation  
Bureau of Meteorology  
Association of Rural Water Authorities  
Ms J. Blake

For **media comment**, please contact:

Kay Elson, House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4274

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or visit the Inquiry website at

[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/index.htm)