



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: May 2003

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

Public hearing in Canberra, 14 May 2003

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

As part of its inquiry, the Committee will take evidence from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE). The ABARE submission to the Inquiry (No.94) focuses on the economics of the COAG water reforms, including key issues such as the pricing of water, allocations for environmental needs, and the prerequisites for an efficient system of trading in water entitlements.

Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, says the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia, with over 150 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.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: 14 May 2003 in Canberra

Wednesday, 14 May 2003 at 5.00pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House Canberra

Scheduled Witness:

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)

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