



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Science and Innovation
Inquiry into coordination of science to combat salinity

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 28 October 2003

Chair: Gary Nairn, MP
Deputy Chair: Ann Corcoran MP

First Public Hearings: Wednesday 29 October to Friday 31 October 2003

**Inquiry into coordination of the science to
combat salinity: Sydney, Wagga, Shepparton hearings**

The House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee is commencing public hearings to collect evidence for its inquiry into the coordination of the science to combat the nation's salinity problem.

The committee will be holding three days of public hearings this week, in NSW and Victoria. The hearings will be in **Sydney** (Wednesday 29 October), **Wagga Wagga**, (Thursday 30 October) and **Shepparton** (Friday 31 October). The committee will hear evidence from relevant state government authorities, catchment management groups, academics, and a range of private sector groups.

The inquiry, which has received 50 submissions to date, is looking at the Commonwealth government's role in managing and co-ordinating the application of the best science in relation to Australia's salinity programs. In particular the Committee will investigate the use of scientific research in salinity programs, the linkages between researchers and end users, and the adequacy of the available support for those applying management options. The Committee is **not** investigating the causes of, or solutions to, salinity.

The Chair of the House Science and Innovation Committee, Mr Gary Nairn, said: "The Commonwealth and states have taken decisive steps to address Australia's salinity problem, including agreeing to the *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*. It is essential that the best scientific knowledge and expertise are used to address the challenges presented by the nation's increasing salinity problem, and this inquiry is aimed at ensuring that structures are in place to guarantee that happens out on the ground."

SYDNEY, Wednesday 29 October 2003

Venue: Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Conference Room A, Level 8, 70 Phillip Street

9.30am Australian Salinity Action Network
10.20am Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)
11.10am Associate Professor Bob Creelman and Dr Dr Jerzy Jankowski (private capacity)
1.00pm NSW Farmers' Association
1.50pm Centre for Salinity Assessment and Management (Sydney University)
2.40pm Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Board
3.45pm NSW Government

WAGGA WAGGA, Thursday 30 October 2003

Venue: Wagga City Council (Historic Council Chambers), Civic Centre, cnr Baylis and Morrow Sts

9.00am Mr Sydney (Syd) Clarke
9.50am Murray Catchment management Board
10.40am Wagga Wagga City Council

SHEPPARTON, Friday 31 October 2003

Venue: The Carrington Hotel, 505 Wyndham Street, Shepparton

8.30am Phil Dyson and Associates
9.20am Murray Irrigation Ltd
10.10am Australian Conservation Foundation
11.00am Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM)

The full terms of reference and other information relating to the inquiry can be obtained from the inquiry web site at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/salinity or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or via email at Scin.Reps@aph.gov.au. The Secretariat can be contacted from 29 to 31 October on 042 1611175.

**For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Gary Nairn MP, via:
(02) 6297 3952 (Electorate Office)**

Telephone: 02 6277 4150
Facsimile: 02 6277 4827
E-mail: scin.reps@aph.gov.au
Website: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600