



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 14 February 2003

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

Public hearings in Queensland, 17 – 19 February 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 south east Queensland next week to gather evidence from local government, landowners and water management authorities.

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

"Getting water management right, so that water is available when and where it is needed on a sustainable basis, 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, inefficient or cumbersome way."

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 17 – 19 February 2003 in Boonah and Brisbane

Monday, 17 February 2003 11.15am – 3.30pm at the Boonah Shire Council Chambers, Boonah

Scheduled Witnesses:

Boonah Shire Council
Tamborine Mountain Progress Association
Beaudesert Shire and Beaudesert Shire Community Advisory Panel
Esk Shire Council
Toowoomba & Region Environment Council

Tuesday, 18 February 2003, 8.45am – 12noon at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane

Scheduled Witnesses:

Department of Natural Resources & Mines
Chinchilla Shire Council
Pioneer Valley Water Board
Lockyer Valley Water Users Association

Wednesday, 19 February 2003, 9am – 12.30pm at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane

Scheduled Witnesses:

Queensland Centre for Climate Applications
Queensland Farmers Federation
Logan & Albert Rivers Catchment Association

For **media comment**, please contact: Kay Elson,
House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4274 or (07) 3807 6340

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