



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Standing Committee on Science and Innovation

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 17 June 2004

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

SALINITY REPORT TO BE RELEASED MONDAY

COORDINATION OF THE SCIENCE TO COMBAT THE NATION'S SALINITY PROBLEM

The House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee will this Monday (21 June 2004) table the report of its inquiry into the coordination and extension of the science to combat Australia's salinity problem. The report will be tabled in the House just after 12.30pm.

The report will be available on the committee's website after tabling at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/salinity/index.htm>

During the course of the inquiry submitters raised a number of concerns with the Committee. Of note was the need for economically viable land and water use systems, the diminishing support for land managers implementing salinity management options, and the complexity of the current arrangements for information transfer between science organisations and government agencies. The Committee responds to these issues in its report.

The Committee will conduct a media conference following the report's tabling.

MEDIA CONFERENCE DETAILS

DATE AND TIME: 4.00 PM, MONDAY 21 JUNE 2004
VENUE: PARLIAMENT HOUSE, COMMITTEE ROOM 2R2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE INQUIRY:

The inquiry was launched in August 2003. In addition to advertising the inquiry, the Committee wrote to more than 250 stakeholders inviting them to make submissions. Public hearings were conducted in Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Shepparton, Perth and Canberra from October to December 2003. In total, 60 witnesses were examined.

The Committee received 81 submissions from a broad range of organisations and individuals, including: Australian and state government agencies with responsibility for natural resource management; catchment management organisations; science agencies; industry bodies; the higher education sector, and private sector organisations involved in product development and the provision of extension services.

Submissions to the inquiry, hearing transcripts and the full terms of reference can be accessed from the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/salinity/index.htm>

To arrange media comment, please contact
the Committee Chair, Gary Nairn MP, on:
(02) 6277 4939 (Parliament House) or (02) 6297 3952 (Electorate Office)

For further information, please contact the Committee Secretariat
on (02) 6277 4150 or via email at Scin.Reps@aph.gov.au