



Inquiry into coordination of the science to combat salinity: Western Australian hearings, 12 – 14 November 2003

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

The sixth and seventh public hearings for the inquiry will be held this Wednesday, 12 November, and Thursday, 13 November, in Perth. In addition, the Committee will undertake site inspections in the State's southern wheat-belt.

The Committee will hear evidence from a range of organisations, including Cooperative Research Centres, the WA Farmers Federation, and the State Government. The full program appears below. The Committee has previously held hearings in Canberra, Sydney, Wagga and Shepparton.

The inquiry, which has received more than 70 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 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."

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE:

Wednesday 12 November 2003

WA Legislative Committee Room 2, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, Perth

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| 1.00 pm | Forest Products Commission (submission no. 63) |
| 2.00 pm | CRC for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration (submission 64) |
| 3.30 pm | Western Australia Salinity R&D Technical Committee (submission 54) |

Thursday 13 November 2003

WA Legislative Committee Room 2, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, Perth

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| 9.00 am | WA Farmers Federation (submission 36) |
| 10.00 am | CRC for Plant-Based Management of Dryland Salinity (submission 8) |
| 11.00 am | Murdoch University (submission 24) |

The full terms of reference and other information relating to the inquiry, including submissions, 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. From 12 to 14 November the Secretariat can be contacted on 0421 611 175.

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