



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 28 November 2003

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

Inquiry into coordination of the science to combat salinity: Canberra public hearing, Monday 1 December 2003

On Monday 1 December, agribusiness company **Landmark** will be appearing before the House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee to give evidence for the inquiry into the coordination of the science to combat the nation's salinity problems.

As Australia's largest rural trading company, Landmark will provide the Committee with a private enterprise perspective on the current arrangements between the science fraternity and end-users of salinity research. With more than 250 agronomists on staff and direct access to 100 000 farmers, Landmark submits that they are in a strong position to provide extension and educational advice to farmers for the management of salinity. On 30 August 2003 Wesfarmers Landmark was sold to monopoly wheat exporter AWB for \$825 million.

This will be the Committee's ninth public hearing. To date the Committee has held public hearings, and undertaken site inspections, in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT.

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:

Monday 1 December
Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra

4.45 pm – 5.45 pm Landmark

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.

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