



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 23 April 2003

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

### ***Public hearings in Adelaide (28 April) and Port Lincoln (29 April)***

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 **Adelaide** on 28 April and **Port Lincoln** on 29 April to gather evidence from peak bodies, water management authorities, and other interested persons.

Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, says the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia, with almost 140 submissions received from concerned organisations and individuals.

"Getting water management right, which includes the balance of allocations between different users, is crucial not only for the prosperity of rural Australia, but the nation as a whole," Mrs Elson said.

South Australia is Australia's driest State. The Murray River supplies about half of the State's water use, with Adelaide deriving almost all its water requirements from that source. The Committee is visiting Port Lincoln to better understand the specific water issues facing rural industries and communities on the Eyre Peninsula, where groundwater is the primary source of water.

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS: 28 April in Adelaide and 29 April in Port Lincoln**

##### **Monday, 28 April 2003 from 9am to 1.45pm at the Stamford Plaza, 150 North Terrace Adelaide**

###### **Scheduled Witnesses:**

CRC for Water Quality and Treatment  
Mr C Pyne MP, Member for Sturt  
Dr J Radcliffe  
South Australian Farmers Federation  
South Australian Government

##### **Tuesday, 29 April 2003 from 9.00am to 10.30am at the Council Chambers, Port Lincoln**

###### **Scheduled Witnesses:**

Eyre Peninsula Catchment Water Management Board  
Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association

For **media comment**, please contact:

Kay Elson, House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee Chair, on (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](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/index.htm)