

Terms of Reference

That the following matters be referred to the Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee for inquiry and report by 13 October 2005:

An assessment of the long-term success of federal programs that seek to reduce the extent of and economic impact of salinity in the Australian environment, including:

- (a) whether goals of national programs to address salinity have been attained, including those stated in the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, National Heritage Trust and National Landcare programs;
- (b) the role that regional catchment management authorities are required to play in management of salinity-affected areas, and the legislative and financial support available to assist them in achieving national goals; and
- (c) what action has been taken as a result of recommendations made by the House of Representatives' Science and Innovation Committee's inquiry 'Science overcoming salinity: Coordinating and extending the science to address the nation's salinity problem', and how those recommendations may be furthered to assist land-holders, regional managers and affected communities to address and reduce the problems presented by salinity.

