

ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Public Hearing: Canberra, Tuesday 6 September 2005

Inquiry into the extent and economic impact of salinity

**How great a risk does salinity pose to Australia's environmental and economic future?
Are we doing enough to achieve national salinity management goals? Is the latest
science research feeding into on-the-ground action?**

These and other questions will be asked on **Tuesday 6 September** in Canberra when the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee holds the first public hearing of its inquiry into the extent and economic impact of salinity.

Senator Andrew Bartlett, the Committee's Chair, stated that:

The Committee has received submissions from a broad range of organisations and individuals affected by, or with an interest in, salinity.

Over the course of this inquiry we will be travelling to regional areas as well as major cities to find out more about the impact that salinity is having on Australian communities and the environment. We want to know how well existing arrangements for salinity management are working for all parties involved.

The Committee will hear from representatives from the CSIRO, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Land and Water Australia, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of the Environment and Heritage at Tuesday's hearing.

Details of the hearing program are overleaf. The public and the media are welcome to observe the proceedings.

Terms of reference and copies of submissions to the inquiry are available from the Committee's website or by telephoning the ECITA Committee Secretariat.

5 September 2005

For further details:

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ECITA Committee Secretariat, ph: 02 6277 3526, or the Committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_environment