

## ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

**Public Hearing: Canberra, Tuesday 28 February 2006**

### **Inquiry into the extent and economic impact of salinity**

On **Tuesday evening, 28 February**, in Canberra, the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee will hold the final public hearing of its inquiry into the extent and economic impact of salinity.

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

*During the course of this inquiry the Committee has travelled 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. There are clearly a lot of challenges facing communities and the Committee has identified some areas for improvement in salinity management. However, the Committee has been encouraged to hear about the level of commitment to tackling the salinity problem and some innovative approaches to achieving this. Governments, researchers, local communities and individual landholders are all working hard to meet this environmental challenge.*

The Committee will hear from representatives from the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the ACT Chief Minister's Department, Greening Australia, the Conservation Foundation of Australia and 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.

The Committee is due to report on 28 March 2006.

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

**27 February 2006**

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For further details:

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[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_environment](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_environment)