



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 3 June 2003

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

***Cloud seeding to be discussed at
public hearing in Canberra, 4 June 2003***

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee is examining the role of the Commonwealth in ensuring adequate and sustainable future water supplies for communities and industries in rural and regional Australia.

As part of its inquiry, the Committee will take evidence from Australian Management Consolidated Pty Ltd (AMC). The AMC submission to the Inquiry (No.113) argues that there is a correlation between increasing atmospheric pollution and decreasing levels of rainfall. The company believes that cloud seeding can be effectively utilised to increase precipitation levels across Australia.

Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, says the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia, with 156 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.

"Cloud seeding is utilised in Tasmania, where cloud conditions are suitable. It will be interesting to examine AMC's technology to see if it can enhance the feasibility of utilising cloud seeding in other parts of Australia."

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

PUBLIC HEARING: 4 June 2003 in Canberra

Wednesday, 4 June 2003 at 5.00pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House Canberra

Scheduled Witness: Australian Management Consolidated Pty Ltd

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