



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 28 July 2003

Public 'round table' in Deniliquin NSW, Thursday 31 July 2003

Irrigator groups to appear at inquiry into future water supplies: access, trading, efficiency, savings and environment on agenda

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.

On **Thursday 31 July** the committee will hold a public 'round table' hearing with representatives of seven groups representing irrigators in the Deniliquin region of NSW. These groups are:

- Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative;
- Irrigators Inc;
- Moira Private Irrigation District;
- Murray Valley Groundwater Users Assoc;
- Murray Irrigation;
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation; and
- Southern Riverina Irrigation Districts Council.

The 'round table' will focus on the following four key issues:

- Water access rights and water trading
- Environmental flows and the 'Living Murray'
- Efficiency of water use and potential savings
- Future research requirements.

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, says the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia, with more than 160 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.

All submissions appear on the inquiry website at:
www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/watering/subs.htm

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

PUBLIC HEARING:	9am – 12.30pm, Thursday 31 July 2003
WHERE:	Deniliquin Golf Club, Memorial Drive, Deniliquin NSW
Scheduled Witness:	Representatives of seven irrigator groups (see above)

A transcript of the hearing will appear on the inquiry website a few days after the hearing.

For media comment, please contact:

Mrs Kay Elson MP, Chair, House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee, 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/watering/index.htm