



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 11 August 2003

AFFA to appear at inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities

Public hearing in Canberra, Wednesday 13 August, 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.

This Wednesday (13 August) the committee will conduct the eighteenth public hearing of its inquiry. Appearing will be representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry - Australia. AFFA is the Commonwealth Department responsible for natural resource management and water issues.

AFFA's submission (No. 160 on the inquiry web site) asserts that "many of Australia's water resources are now under significant pressure...the agricultural sector is under pressure to reduce levels of extraction in areas of over allocation and allocate more water to the environment".

The submission continues: "Effective management of our water resources is therefore vital to ensure the demands from urban, industrial and agricultural water users and the environment are balanced to ensure the sustainability of our rivers and protect our future water supplies."

The 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.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING: 5pm, Wednesday 13 August 2003
WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
Scheduled Witness: Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry – Australia (AFFA)

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 (02) 6277 4274

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/waterinq/index.htm