



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 14 October 2003

The National Farmers' Federation to appear at inquiry into future water supplies for Australia's rural industries and communities

Public hearing in Canberra, Wednesday 15 October, 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 (15 October) the committee will conduct a public hearing with representatives of the **National Farmers' Federation**, Australia's peak farming organisation.

The NFF has adopted as a key platform the need for farmers to maintain security of access to natural resources. This access should be accompanied by a duty of care on behalf of landholders as expressed through the various quality assurance and best management practice programs developed and implemented by industry.

In its submission (No. 168 on the inquiry web site) the NFF emphasised that achieving security for both the environment and consumptive users requires active management of our rivers guided by the best science and ensuring all interests are treated fairly and equitably.

The public hearing will provide an opportunity for the Committee to learn more about the views of the NFF.

The Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, says the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia, with more than 170 submissions received from concerned organisations and individuals.

"The supply of water to rural Australia is one of the most critical issues facing the nation," Mrs Elson said. "What we do about water now will influence the future for generations."

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 15 October 2003
WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
Scheduled Witness: National Farmers' Federation

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