

Issued: 29 March 2011

Chair: Mr Tony Windsor MP

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN The River, Our Future, Your Say

Swan Hill - participate in a plan for the future

As part of the inquiry into the proposed Murray-Darling Basin plan, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia will be visiting Swan Hill on 30 March to meet the people living and working in the Basin. The Committee wants to hear the views of the communities, understand the complexity of the issues faced, and hear community solutions for the Murray-Darling River.

In December 2010 the Committee visited a number of regions around the Broken Hill area, and in January spent 9 days conducting hearings in a number of areas including Murray Bridge, Mildura, Shepparton and Griffith. In February the Committee visited Gunnedah, Bourke and Dubbo. Most recently the Committee visited St George and Goondiwindi conducting hearings and site inspections.

After having to postpone the Committee's January visit to Swan Hill due to flooding in the area, the Committee is looking forward to honouring its commitment to the Swan Hill community to visit the area and conduct a hearing for the Murray-Darling Basin inquiry.

Details of the meeting are as follows:

Time: 11.30am – 4.30pm

Date: Wednesday 30 March 2011

Venue: The Grain Shed – 2-8 King Street, Swan Hill, Vic.

Committee Chair Mr Tony Windsor MP says "People in these regions have been doing it tough. This inquiry is about people having their say in planning for the future of the river system and the communities that it sustains. There have been many positive suggestions from the hard working people in Basin regions. The Committee is looking forward to speaking directly to communities in the Basin as it seeks to develop a series of balanced and fair solutions."

The Committee will be reporting mid 2011. More information, including the program of speakers at the public hearings, is available on the website www.aph.gov.au/mdi.

For media comment: contact the Chair's media advisor, Graham Nuttall on 0412 916 040. For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337, email ra.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee website at http://www.aph.gov.au/mdi