



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

INQUIRY INTO THE WATER AMENDMENT (WATER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SPECIAL ACCOUNTS) BILL 2012

*Chair: Mr Tony Windsor MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Steve Gibbons MP*

**INQUIRY INTO THE WATER AMENDMENT (WATER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SPECIAL
ACCOUNT) BILL 2012**

Irrigation and environmental groups to discuss Water Special Account Bill

The Water Amendment (Water for the Environment Special Account) Bill establishes a \$1.77 billion special account for infrastructure improvement projects that seek to improve water efficiency in the Murray-Darling Basin. The funds for the account are to be appropriated over the next ten years.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia will hold a public hearing into the Bill tomorrow in Sydney. Mr Tony Windsor, Chair of the Committee said 'The Committee has previously recommended to the Government that funds be dedicated to improving on-farm and off-farm infrastructure that lead to greater water efficiency. It is pleasing to see the Government acting upon this recommendation'.

'However, the community has raised important questions about the operation of Bill that the Committee needs to explore.' said Mr Windsor.

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Tuesday, 20 November 2012

10.00 am to 1.30 pm

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices
Level 8, 70 Phillip Street, Sydney**

**** Due to security arrangements, you must advise the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4162
by 4.00am Monday 19 November to attend the public hearing.**

Proceedings will also be audio broadcast on:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

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/ra>

Program

Time	Witness
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10.00am	National Farmers' Federation (Submission No 1)
10.30am	Irrigation roundtable National Irrigation Council (Submission No 13) and New South Wales Irrigators (Submission No 10) and Murray Irrigation (Submission No 6)
11.30am	Water for Rivers (Submission No 7)
12.00pm	Environmental roundtable Australian Conservation Foundation (Submission No 5) and Environment Victoria (Submission No 4)
12.30pm	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
1.00pm	Australian Dairy Industry Council (Submission 14)
1.30pm	Close