

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority File Ref: LAN-02/0001 2 Our Ref: GB (j:\land-biod\aa_greg\salinity\sci-coord28-10-03.doc) Contact: Greg Barber Date: 27 October, 2003

The Committee Secretary House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation RI Suite II6 Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

INQUIRY INTO THE COORDINATION OF THE SCIENCE TO COMBAT THE NATION'S SALINITY PROBLEM

The Wimmera Region has been involved in programs such as the NDSP tools program. This proved a very effective means of communicating the latest salinity research to Regional staff and the wider community, and complemented Regionally driven research programs.

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority is also incorporating current thinking and approaches to salinity management into the Wimmera Regional Salinity Action Plan. The plan has adopted the "groundwater flow systems" approach and provides a useful mechanism for prioritising salinity works in the Region.

Incorporating this new approach to salinity management into the plan has been made possible by employing external consultants who can provide this expertise.

Such investment is necessary to enable Regions to access up to date information and research. Of vital importance is investment in monitoring and further investigation of new approaches, to enable evaluation and further refinement of these techniques.

The Authority looks forward to the results of the enquiry.

Yours Sincerely,

BERNIE DUNN ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

26 Darlot Street Horsham Victoria 3400 PO Box 479 Horsham Victoria 3402 Phone: (03) 5382 1544 Fax: (03) 5382 6076 wca@wca.vic.gov.au ABN 83 900 830 261

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