

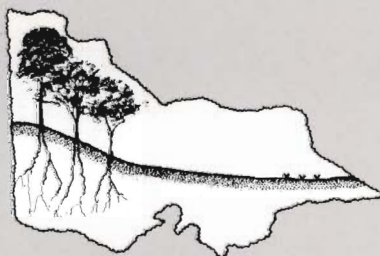


Salinity Committee

Second Report to the Parliament

The Activities of the Salinity Committee

October 1983



SALINITY COMMITTEE

Second Report to the Parliament

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SALINITY COMMITTEE

October 1983

Ordered to be printed

D-No. 15/1982-83.



Members of the Salinity Committee taking evidence at the Sixth Regional Public Hearing, held at Shepparton. From left to right - Mr. E. Hann M.L.A. (Deputy Chairman), The Hon. J. Radford M.L.C., Mr. W. Fogarty M.L.A. (Chairman), The Hon. J. Ramsay M.L.A. and Mr. G. Stirling M.L.A. The Hon. L. McArthur M.L.C. was absent due to illness.



Members of the Salinity Committee, with officers of the Soil Conservation Authority and Forests Commission inspect salt-affected land on the Dundas Tableland in South-west Victoria.

THE SALINITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. W. F. Fogarty, M.L.A. (Chairman)
Mr. E. J. Hann, M.L.A. (Deputy Chairman)
Mr. G. F. Stirling, M.L.A.
The Hon. J. H. Ramsay, M.L.A.
The Hon. L. A. McArthur, M.L.C.
The Hon. J. W. S. Radford, M.L.C.

COMMITTEE STAFF

Mr. G. M. Hunter, Director of Research.
Mr. G. J. Senn, Secretary.
Mrs. P. J. Hansson, Stenographer.
Mr. Q. G. Farmar-Bowers, Research Officer,
courtesy of State Rivers & Water Supply Commission.
Mr. J. I. Day, Research Officer,
courtesy of Department of Agriculture.

CONSULTANTS TO THE COMMITTEE

ACIL Australia Pty. Ltd.
Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey Pty. Ltd.
Australian Groundwater Consultants Pty. Ltd.
School of Agriculture and Forestry,
University of Melbourne.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
The Committee's Objective and Method of Operation	1
The Structure and Timetable of the Inquiries	2
Component Inquiries	2
Timetable	4
Barr Creek Catchment & the Mineral Reserve Basin & Lake Tyrell Schemes	6
Community Consultation	6
Visits and Inspections	6
Discussions and Meetings	7
Submissions	8
Public Hearings	8
Restricted Hearings	10
Community Conferences	10
Other Methods	10
Research and Advisory Programme	10
Consultant Studies	10
Background Papers	12
Discussion Papers	13
Reporting	13
Publicity	13
The Committee's Resources	14
Staff	14
Budget Estimate	14
 <u>APPENDICES</u>	
1 Example of advertisement for a Regional Hearing	16
2 Membership of Research Advisory Group	17
3 Advertisement inviting Registration of Consultants	18
4 List of consultants registered with the Salinity Committee	19
5 Standard working arrangements and general conditions for consultancy engagements	22
6 Departmental Salinity Liaison Committee	24
7 Advertisement inviting applications for the position of Director of Research	25

EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 2 JULY, 1982

- 37 SALINITY COMMITTEE - The Honourable W.A. Landeryou moved, by leave, That the Honourables L.A. McArthur and J.W.S. Radford be members of the Salinity Committee.
Question - put and resolved in the affirmative.
-

EXTRACTED FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 1 JULY, 1982

- 37 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - Motion made, by leave, and question - That, contingent upon the Legislative Council concurring with the Resolutions of this House dated 1 July 1982 establishing the respective Committees -
(a) Mr. Fogarty, Mr. Hann, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Wood# be appointed members of the Salinity Committee.
* * * * *
(Mr. Fordham) - put and agreed to.

TUESDAY, 24 MAY, 1983

- 14 SALINITY COMMITTEE - Motion made, by leave, and question - That Mr. Ramsay be appointed a member of the Salinity Committee (Mr. Fordham) - put and agreed to.
-

Mr Wood resigned from the Legislative Assembly on 29 March 1983.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1 July 1982

- 1 That a joint Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the salinity of land and water with particular reference to -
 - (a) the social, environmental and economic effects of -
 - (i) dry land salinity;
 - (ii) salinity associated with irrigation; and
 - (iii) increased salinity in rivers and streams as a result of factors within Victorian control;
 - (b) opportunities for co-operative efforts in salinity control involving other State Governments and the Australian Government;
 - (c) methods of meeting the costs of salinity control; and
 - (d) administrative and other arrangements for salinity control, including integration with other aspects of land and water management.
- 2 That, in respect of the terms of reference, the Committee shall give priority to an inquiry into the Barr Creek catchment and the Mineral Reserve Basin and Lake Tyrell schemes and is required to report thereon to the Houses within 6 months.
- 3 That, subject to paragraph 2, the Committee shall give priority to such investigations referred to it by resolution of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

8 December 1982

- 1 That the Joint Select Committee on Salinity inquire into and report by 31 December 1983 upon the undermentioned matters together with any other matters the Committee considers to be relevant thereto:
 - (a) The quantity of water available for use in Northern Victoria and the quantities that are expected to be available following

the completion of Dartmouth Reservoir,
including water -

- (i) already allocated; and
 - (ii) available to be allocated.
- (b) The control of such water and the uses to which it should be allocated so as to best serve conjunctive economic, social and environmental objectives, including -
- (i) salinity control;
 - (ii) urban water supply;
 - (iii) rural water supply for domestic and stock use;
 - (iv) industrial water supply;
 - (v) irrigation;
 - (vi) recreation, both active and passive;
 - (vii) conservation of native flora and fauna and migratory fauna;
 - (viii) dilution of drainage water or effluents from any of the aforesaid uses, with a view to re-use in Victoria or to the maintenance of satisfactory water quality in the River Murray;
 - (ix) generation of hydro-electric energy; and
 - (x) flood mitigation.
- (c) With regard to the allocation of water for irrigation, the volume of water which should be allocated to -
- (i) existing constituted irrigation districts;
 - (ii) lands which might be included in irrigation districts; and
 - (iii) lands irrigated by private diversion.
- (d) In respect of the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District the desirability of amending the Water Act 1958 in respect of matters affecting the apportionment of water rights including -
- (i) the adoption of an alternative water right formula of the type contained in Schedule 3B to the Act;
 - (ii) the recognition of holdings created by subdivision since 1 July 1959, and any future subdivision, for the purpose of applying the above mentioned water right formula; and
 - (iii) the transfer of water rights between holdings; the cancellation and reallocation of unused water rights and the attachment of conditions to any future allocations.

received by or produced by the former Public Works Committee in relation to the similar reference received by that Committee pursuant to the provisions of the Public Works Committee Act 1958 be referred to the Joint Select Committee on Salinity.



ACTIVITIES OF THE SALINITY COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This report records the activities of the Salinity Committee to date, outlines the approach that the Committee is taking to its Terms of Reference, and describes the proposed programme for the rest of this year and for 1984.
- 2 The Committee was established as a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee in July, 1982, to inquire into the problems of salinised soil and water in Victoria and into the means by which the control of such salinity might be encouraged. In proposing the establishment of the Committee, the Government expressed concern about restoring and preserving the quality of soils and waters wherever they are threatened by salinity, and committed itself to giving the matter a high priority. It was noted that

"Salinity has been a major problem, limiting and progressively reducing productivity of agricultural land, the quality of our soils, rivers and streams, and the environment in widespread areas of Victoria. Up to 200,000 hectares are at present affected. More than 100,000 hectares of irrigated land and much more than 80,000 hectares of other land are affected. Unless this major problem is tackled seriously, we face the prospect of huge areas of prime agricultural land becoming wasteland."

- 3 In December, 1982, the Committee was given the additional, but related, task of inquiring into the allocation of water in Northern Victoria.
- 4 The Committee has already conducted preliminary hearings and inspections, received submissions and prepared a progress report relating to its inquiry into salinity. It has appointed research and administrative staff, established a Departmental Salinity Liaison Committee, conducted a series of regional public hearings, inspected salt-affected areas of the State, and is pursuing other initiatives as described later in this report.

THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVE AND METHOD OF OPERATION

- 5 The objectives of the Committee are to address the Terms of Reference effectively, comprehensively and efficiently.
- 6 To pursue these objectives, the Committee is instituting a set of parallel inquiries. Each inquiry will generally contain the following stages :
- (i) Preparation of reports or discussion papers

giving background information and, where appropriate, identifying options for overcoming problems.

- (ii) Concurrently with (i), calling for submissions which may be able to contribute to the reports under preparation.
 - (iii) Following the release of the background reports or papers, calling for submissions which respond to the information and ideas they contain.
 - (iv) Conducting public hearings, informal discussions, conferences, visits and inspections.
 - (v) Analysing and considering the available information, and preparing progress and final reports.
- 7 The stages constitute a programme of community consultation, research and analysis, and reporting. It is supported by the necessary administration and publicity.

THE STRUCTURE AND TIMETABLE OF THE INQUIRIES

Component Inquiries

- 8 The two sets of Terms of Reference, covering the salinity issues and the allocation of water, are to be addressed by conducting the following four related inquiries:

- (i) Salinity Inquiry A: The effects of salinity and the effectiveness of existing counter measures

Subjects :

- (a) The social, environmental and economic effects of (i) dryland salinity, (ii) salinity associated with irrigation, and (iii) increased salinity in rivers and streams as a result of factors within Victorian control.
- (b) The effectiveness of existing techniques in controlling elevated levels of salt in soil, groundwater and surface water.

The Terms of Reference specifically require Subject (a) to be addressed. Subject (b) is not specifically included in the Terms of Reference. However, it must be considered in preparation for the Committee's assessment of the methods for facilitating salinity control. Both subjects have been included in the same inquiry to allow the related public hearings to be conducted efficiently. The Committee is including in this Inquiry the preparation of consultants' reports and a series of regional and Melbourne based public hearings on both subjects.

(ii) Salinity Inquiry B: Control of salinity

Subjects :

- (a) The suitability of salinity control techniques and impediments to their application.
- (b) Opportunities for co-operative efforts in salinity control involving other State Governments and the Australian Government.
- (c) Methods of meeting the costs of salinity control.
- (d) Administrative and other arrangements for salinity control, including integration with other aspects of land and water management.

Subject (a) is not specifically included in the Terms of Reference but must be considered in preparation for addressing (b), (c) and (d).

The Committee is including in this inquiry a consultant's study on Subject (a), the preparation of discussion papers on (b), (c) and (d), a community conference to discuss the issues raised, and a series of regional and Melbourne-based public hearings.

(iii) Water Allocation Inquiry A: The use of water for irrigation in Northern Victoria

Subjects :

- (a) The allocation of water for irrigation.
- (b) In respect of the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District, the desirability of amending the Water Act 1958 in respect of matters affecting the apportionment of water rights.

The Terms of Reference specifically require both these subjects to be addressed. In the early stages of the inquiry, the Committee will seek submissions on the interim recommendations of the former Public Works Committee. Since information on the competing demands for water for several non-irrigation purposes is unlikely to become available until the end of 1983, the inquiry will initially focus on the principles associated with the allocation of the irrigation component and with the apportionment of water rights. Findings of the current inquiry of the Public Bodies Review Committee into the management of irrigation in

Victoria will be taken into account.

The Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, and others will be requested to prepare background and discussion papers for release before a community conference. Subsequent public hearings will then jointly address the subjects of Inquiry A and Inquiry B on water allocations.

(iv) Water Allocation B: Allocation of water for non-irrigation purposes in Northern Victoria

Subjects :

- (a) The quantity of water available for use in Northern Victoria and the quantities that are expected to be available following the completion of Dartmouth Reservoir.
- (b) The control of such water and the uses to which it should be allocated so as to best serve conjunctive economic, social and environmental objectives.

Submissions on the interim recommendations of the former Public Works Committee may also be invited for this inquiry. The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission will be asked to provide any information that has become available since evidence for the Public Works Committee was prepared. Information from the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Forests Commission and River Murray Commission on the requirements for river dilution and forest watering is not expected until the end of 1983. The Committee is concerned about the long delay in the preparation of this information. Subsequent public hearings will then jointly address the subjects of Inquiry A and Inquiry B on water allocations.

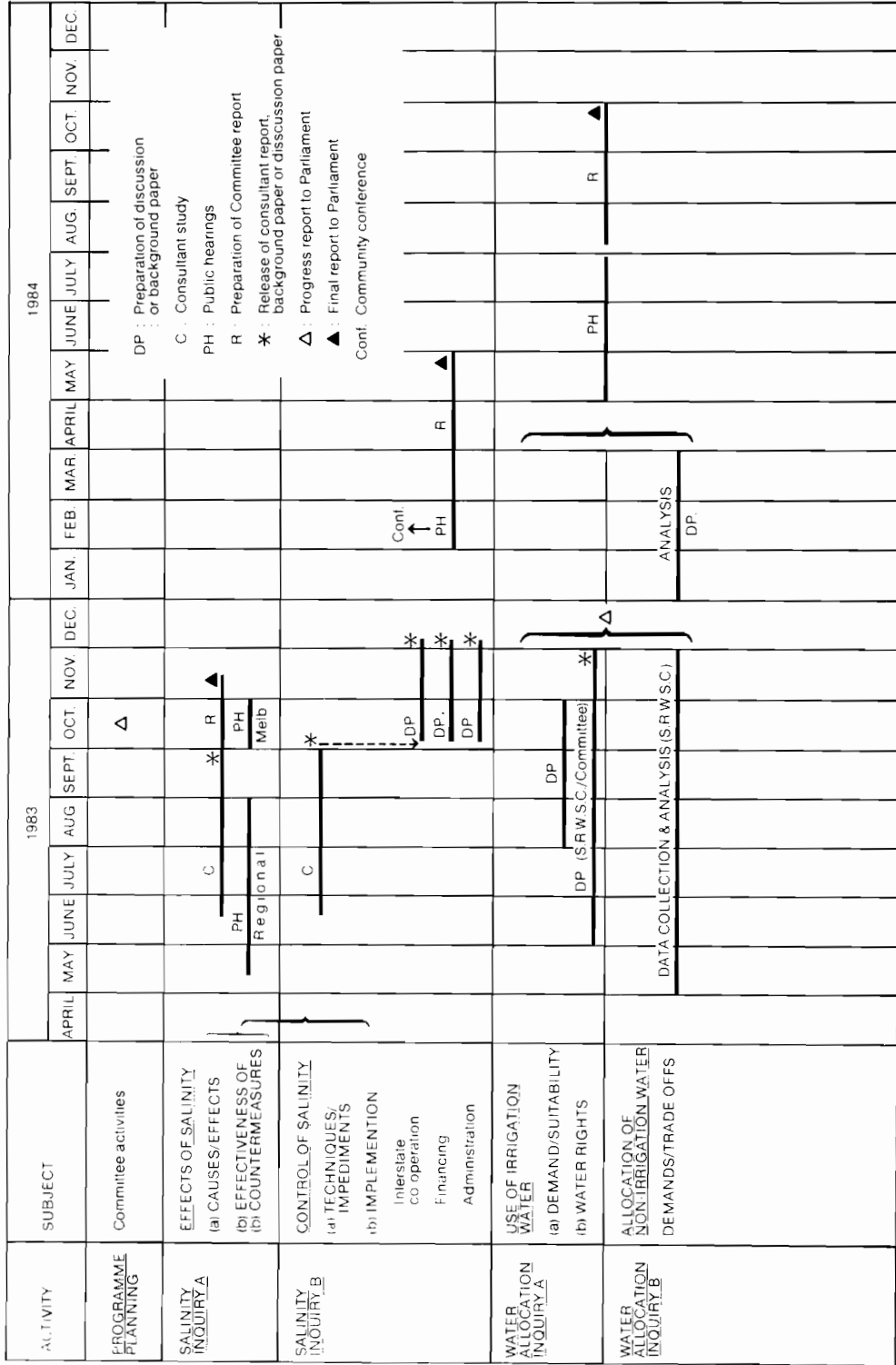
- 9 The community consultations, research programme and reporting associated with these inquiries are described in paragraphs 15 to 38.

Timetable

- 10 The timetable for the inquiries is shown diagrammatically in Figure 1 and is designed to allow the completion of a final report by December 1984. The research programme has commenced with priority being given to Salinity Inquiries A and B. Public hearings have been timed to follow the release of background documents. The Committee proposes to hold two community conferences in Bendigo and Shepparton

SALINITY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME-IN-PRINCIPLE

FIGURE 1



- refer paragraph 28.

Barr Creek Catchment and the Mineral Reserve Basin and Lake Tyrell Schemes

- 11 The Terms of Reference require the Committee to give priority in its Salinity Inquiry to the above aspects of salinity management in the Kerang region. The Committee responded by submitting a progress report to Parliament in December, 1982. The report noted that (a) the Mineral Reserve Basin project was under construction but the subject of litigation; (b) a comprehensive consultant report on the Barr Creek catchment was being prepared for the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission; and (c) the scheme to extend the Mineral Reserve Basin project to include disposal of saline water to Lake Tyrell was currently uneconomic.
- 12 Following discussions with the Minister of Water Supply earlier this year, the Committee has concluded that the inquiry into the Kerang region should be undertaken in the same manner as its inquiries into other salt-affected regions and should be integrated into its general programme for 1983 and 1984. Specifically, the Committee has advised the Minister that it would be impracticable to complete a thorough inquiry into the Mineral Reserve Basin Scheme within six months, and estimated that such an inquiry would require two years.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 13 Most of the information available to the Committee is obtained through consultation with government and non-government organisations and individual people. The Committee is pursuing several avenues of consultation in order to provide a focal point for consideration of the issues by the community at the regional and State level.

Visits and Inspections

- 14 The Committee, in association with officers of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, and the Department of Agriculture, inspected salt-affected areas and salinity control projects in the Kerang region in August, 1982, and in the Shepparton region in September, 1982. In February, 1983, it was guided by officers of the Soil Conservation Authority on an inspection of dryland salting in the Mallee, Maryborough, Bendigo and Benalla areas. In July this year, with officers of the Soil Conservation Authority and Forests Commission, it visited the Dundas Tableland and adjacent areas of the Western District affected by dryland salting and high salinity in rivers.
- 15 During these visits extensive opportunities were provided to discuss the salinity problem with land owners. The Committee will seek to co-ordinate further inspections of

salt-affected areas, salinity control schemes, and areas relevant to the Water Allocation Inquiries, with the regional public hearings outlined in Table 1.

- 16 Inter-state visits are also of importance. In June, 1983, the Committee visited Western Australia in which the severity of dryland and stream salinity has provided the incentive for major research and control programmes. Discussions were held with representatives from the Western Australia Department of Agriculture, Public Works Department and Department of Conservation and the Environment, and from the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Groundwater Research. A two-day inspection of salinity mitigation and research projects south-west of Perth was also undertaken.
- 17 The Committee intends to visit South Australia in October, 1983, and New South Wales early next year in order to inspect relevant areas and projects and to discuss salinity issues with appropriate authorities. The opportunities for further co-operation between Victoria and the Australian Government will be discussed with Federal authorities in Canberra next year.

Discussions and Meetings

- 18 The Committee held background discussions during August-November, 1982, with officers of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Soil Conservation Authority, Department of Agriculture, Department of Minerals and Energy and Forests Commission. To assist the Committee in planning its programme, the Director of Research and Secretary conducted a round of discussions with officers of the seven government departments directly involved in salinity control and water management. The Director of Research visited Canberra for discussions with staff of the C.S.I.R.O., River Murray Commission, Federal Department of Energy and Resources, and Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment, and accepted invitations to outline the activities of the Committee to meetings of the Goulburn Irrigation Region Drainage Action Committee, the Victorian Irrigation Research and Promotion Organisation (VIRPO) and the Irrigators and Water Users Committee of the Victorian Farmers and Graziers Association. He also attended the annual meeting of the Murray Valley Development League, the conference of the Irrigation Advisory Boards and, during a private visit to the U.S.A. in July, the International Symposium on the State-of-the-Art Control of Salinity.
- 19 Members of the Committee attended a conference on "Irrigation - Its Relevance To The National Economy In A Modern Environment" conducted by VIRPO in July, 1983.
- 20 The Committee will continue to conduct informal discussions as appropriate. Invitations will also be extended to relevant Ministers of the Victorian Government to outline

to the Committee related developments in Government policy and to discuss the Committee's activities.

Submissions

- 21 Written submissions to the Committee provide an important source of information and are a useful forerunner to the presentation of evidence at public hearings.
- 22 The Committee has sought access to submissions received by the former Public Works Committee during its inquiries into Water Allocation in Northern Victoria and into a number of salinity control projects. In August, 1982, the Salinity Committee invited submissions on any of the Terms of Reference for its Salinity Inquiry.
- 23 The Committee is seeking further submissions of relevance to each stage of its four inquiries. Invitations to submit will be advertised in the metropolitan and regional press, through the Committee's newsletter, and by letter to organisations of particular relevance.

Public Hearings

- 24 Advertised hearings that are open to the public and the news media and for which a transcript of proceedings is made, are a key component in the Committee's programme. They are an important means of acquiring information and placing on public record the view of concerned organisations and individuals.
- 25 Public hearings have been held in Melbourne to enable the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission to outline the Shepparton Phase B Programme and schemes for Lake Charm and Karadoc Swamp (October, 1982) and to describe its plans for work relating to the Terms of Reference of the Water Allocation Inquiry (April, 1983). The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was to provide the Committee with further evidence in early 1983 relating to the Shepparton Phase B Programme. The Committee is concerned that this has not eventuated. A further programme of hearings in Melbourne is being planned. Its principal purpose will be to obtain the views of government organisations and other Melbourne-based groups.
- 26 In addition, a programme of Regional Public Hearings has commenced. The subject, location and timing is shown in Table 1. The locations have been chosen on the basis of the major salt-affected regions in Victoria and irrigation areas in the Murray Valley. The hearings have been timed to derive greatest benefit from the preparation and release of the preliminary research reports and discussion papers. Priority is given to the Kerang region, as required by the Terms of Reference. An example of an advertisement for a Regional Hearing is given in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Timetable of Regional Public Hearings.

Region	Subject*	Effects of Salinity & Effectiveness of Counter-Measures	Implementation of Salinity Control	Water Allocation & Management of Water Rights.
Kerang/Swan Hill		9 May, 1983 (Kerang)	} Early 1984	Mid-1984
Shepparton		1 September, 1983. (Shepparton)		Mid-1984
Sunraysia		4 July, 1983 (Mildura)		Mid-1984
Mallee		5 July, 1983 (Swan Hill)	} Early 1984	
North Central		20 July, 1983 (Bendigo)		
Western District		27 July, 1983 (Hamilton)		

* At each hearing the subject given in the table will be the central subject on which evidence will be sought. However, the Committee may, at its discretion, accept evidence on any other of its Terms of Reference.

Restricted hearings

- 27 While seeking to conduct as many as possible of its hearings in public, the Committee recognises that at times it may be necessary to hold some hearings in camera. A restricted hearing was held in September, 1982, in Melbourne, at which the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission outlined aspects of the litigation relating to the Mineral Reserve Basin Scheme.

Community Conferences

- 28 Community conferences provide opportunities for information on relevant issues to be reported, ideas to be discussed and the Committee members to meet with participants in a less formal situation that can occur at public hearings. The Committee is seeking the assistance of appropriate organisations to plan and conduct a community conference on the control of salinity, which will be held at Bendigo in February 1984. A second conference, on the use of irrigation water and management of water rights, is proposed for 1984, at Shepparton.

Other Methods

- 29 The Committee is encouraging community participation in its inquiries including the involvement of existing interested organisations that could respond both to the Committee's inquiries and to any other related planning for the use of water and land.

RESEARCH AND ADVISORY PROGRAMME

- 30 To assist the Committee in the collation, independent analysis, and presentation of data, a research programme has been initiated. It is to be composed of consultant studies, the preparation of background papers and discussion papers, and contributions to the preparation of Committee reports. At the request of the Committee, advice is provided to it on various issues that may arise during the course of the inquiries. The programme is under the day-to-day management of the Director of Research. A Research Advisory Group comprising a number of non-government experts in land and water management has been formed to advise on the programme. The members of the Advisory Group are listed in Appendix 2.

Consultant Studies

- 31 Subject to the approval of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and of the Treasurer, the Committee will commission studies by private consultants when the required collection and analysis of information cannot be adequately undertaken within the necessary time by staff of the Committee or by government agencies.
- 32 To ensure that all interested persons and groups will have

the opportunity to compete for work to be commissioned, the Committee decided to open a Register of Consultants. Press advertisements were placed during March, 1983, inviting consultants to register and to provide details of their relevant expertise and experience. A copy of the advertisement is given in Appendix 3. The currently registered consultants are listed in Appendix 4. When the Committee wishes to commission a study, it selects from this Register a number of consultants appropriate to the task, and invites proposals. Consultants commissioned by the Committee will be required to agree to a standard set of working arrangements and general conditions as prescribed by the Committee and shown in Appendix 5. Each study will be managed by the Committee and the Director of Research.

33 In June this year, the Committee commissioned consultants to undertake two related studies which will provide information for the Salinity Inquiries. The final reports will be available in October. Both studies require the systematic collation of data from government and non-government sources and a critical assessment and interpretation of the data. A Departmental Salinity Liaison Committee, comprising nominated representatives from government organisations, as shown in Appendix 6, has been formed to facilitate access by the consultants to relevant information located in these organisations.

34 The team of consultants who are contributing to both studies has been drawn from ACIL Australia Pty. Ltd., Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey Pty. Ltd., Australian Groundwater Consultants Pty. Ltd., and the School of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Melbourne. ACIL Australia Pty. Ltd. is leading a study of the causes, extent and effects of salinity, and Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey is leading the second study on the application of salinity control techniques in Victoria. The purpose and objectives of each study are as follows :

(i) The causes, extent and effects of salinity.

The purpose of the study is to provide the Committee with a comprehensive and systematic description of the causes and consequences of man-induced salinity so that the Committee can be confident that it has the most recent information on the problem and can reliably assign priorities to its subsequent inquiries into remedial measures.

The specific objectives are :

- (a) To collate existing information on the physical causes, the extent of severity, and the social, environmental and economic effects of land and water salinity that is associated with activities under Victorian control.

- (b) To assess the reliability of available information as a basis for policy decisions.
 - (c) To identify significant gaps in the understanding of the causes, extent and effects of salinity associated with activities under Victorian control.
- (ii) The application of salinity control techniques in Victoria

The purpose of the study is to provide the Committee with an understanding of the various physical and bio-physical techniques that are available to control salinity in the short and long term, and of the current impediments to their use. The results will assist the Committee in its subsequent inquiries into the means by which the implementation of the appropriate techniques can be encouraged.

The specific objectives are:

- (a) To assess the success of physical and bio-physical techniques that have already been implemented to control land and water salinity that is associated with activities under Victorian control.
- (b) To collate existing data on relevant characteristics of possible control techniques.
- (c) To assess the short-term and long-term advantages and disadvantages of implementing the possible control techniques in salt-affected regions of Victoria.
- (d) To identify the current impediments to the development of techniques and further application of the most advantageous techniques.
- (e) To identify significant data gaps of relevance to the above objectives.

Background papers

- 35 The Committee will encourage and request the preparation of papers, generally for public release, which provide background information of relevance to the inquiries. The Committee has already received background briefing from several government departments, and information on their research programmes and forward works programmes that are of relevance to the inquiries.

Discussion papers

- 36 In order to promote community discussion and response, the Committee proposes to precede most of its public hearings with the release of discussion papers. These papers will identify the important problems and issues and suggest the options available for addressing them.
- 37 As shown in Figure 1, discussion papers on the implementation of salinity control, the use of irrigation water, the management of water rights, and the allocation of non-irrigation water, are planned. Also under consideration is the preparation of a paper outlining broadly based alternatives for regional development in the Murray Valley. These papers may be prepared by staff of the Committee, government organisations or consultants.

REPORTING

- 38 The Committee will publish information through the release of consultants' reports, background papers and discussion papers, as noted above. In addition, transcripts of the proceedings of public hearings are available.

The following schedule of reports to Parliament has been adopted by the Committee.

Salinity and Water Allocation Inquiries

The Activities of the Salinity Committee
- October 1983.

Salinity Inquiry

<u>First Report</u>	Progress Report on the inquiry into the Barr Creek Catchment and Mineral Reserve Basin and Lake Tyrell Schemes - Tabled December 1982
<u>Second Report</u>	The Effects of Salinity - November 1983
<u>Third Report</u>	The Implementation of Salinity Control Measures - May 1984

Water Allocations Inquiry

<u>First Report</u>	Progress Report -	November 1983
<u>Second Report</u>	The Allocation of Water in Northern Victoria	- November 1984

PUBLICITY

- 39 To ensure that the community, particularly in the Murray Valley and other salt-affected areas of Victoria, is aware of the activities of the Committee and is therefore ready to respond to the inquiries, the Committee is seeking to implement an effective publicity programme. It is grateful for the assistance it is receiving in this matter from the Publicity Unit of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

40 The Committee has already agreed that, as part of the publicity programme commencing in October, 1983. a Newsletter, outlining the progress and plans of the inquiries, will be sent to all relevant organisations and interested individuals.

41 A mailing list has been prepared which includes the following categories of organisations, segregated according to regions:

- * Federal, State and Local government organisations
- * farming associations
- * soil conservation and irrigation advisory groups
- * water, sewerage and drainage trusts
- * salinity and irrigation action groups
- * news media
- * regional libraries.

THE COMMITTEE'S RESOURCES

Staff

42 The Salinity Committee is currently serviced by a full-time Secretary and Director of Research and a Stenographer. The Secretary, Mr. Gary Senn, is a permanent officer of the Parliament. The Director of Research, Mr. Graham Hunter, is a seconded public servant who was appointed in February 1983 after the vacancy was nationally advertised (see Appendix 7). The Committee interviewed fifteen applicants for the post. The term of Mr. Hunter's appointment is two years. The Committee's Stenographer is Mrs. Pamela Hansson.

43 While this level of staffing was adequate for the planning and early phases of the inquiries, the Committee's resources needed to be augmented as the programmes of public hearings and research grew from mid-1983. Accordingly, two positions of Research Officer were established and applications for secondment from government departments to these positions advertised in July, 1983. The positions have now been filled by officers seconded by courtesy of the Department of Agriculture and State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

Budget Estimate

44 The budget estimate to cover expenses that are likely to be incurred by all the inquiries under the Committee's Terms of Reference, is summarised in Table 2.

TABLE 2: BUDGET ESTIMATE - 1983/84.

Summary of estimates submitted by the Salinity Committee
for approval in the 1983/84 Budget.


<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Fixed expenditure</u> (Items for which there is already ongoing commitment for provision of funds).	
Committee meeting allowance	\$ 13,400
Staff salaries	76,000
Printing of Parliamentary Reports	<u>8,000</u>
Total fixed expenditure	97,400.
<u>Variable Expenditure</u> (Items requiring approval of Treasurer and Speaker).	
Advertising	\$ 11,200
Community conferences	2,000
Consultants	73,800
Incidental expenses	1,300
Office expenses (1)	65,000
Postage	3,000
Printing of consultant reports, discussion papers and transcripts	21,000
Research assistance (2)	20,000
Stationery	500
Travel and accommodation (3)	<u>13,500</u>
Total variable expenditure	211,300

- (1) Allows for lease of office accommodation
- (2) Minimal allowance for additional research assistance
- (3) Provides for accommodation during regional hearings and travel to New South Wales, South Australia and Canberra.

Committee Room
7th September, 1983

APPENDIX 1

Example of advertisement for a Regional Hearing



SALINITY COMMITTEE
How Does Salinity
Affect You?
KERANG REGION PUBLIC HEARING
9 MAY 1983

The Parliamentary joint select committee on salinity has been established to inquire into:

The effects of land and water salinity throughout Victoria and the allocation of water in Northern Victoria.

The first of a series of regional public hearings will be held by the committee at the Kerang Shire Offices, Victoria St., Kerang, commencing at 9 a.m.

Organisations and individuals wishing to make submissions to the hearing on any of the committee terms of reference but particularly on the SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SALINITY AND THE EFFECTIVENESS IN THE KERANG — SWAN HILL AREA should register their intent by sending a brief outline of their proposed submission to:

The Secretary,
Salinity Committee,
Parliament House,
Melbourne 3002.

No later than Monday 2 May, 1983.
W. F. Fogarty, M.P.
Chairman.

APPENDIX 2

Membership of Research Advisory Group

Professor Sandford Clark	Harrison Moore Professor of Law University of Melbourne
Dr. Geoffrey Downes	Consultant, formerly Chairman Soil Conservation Authority, and formerly Director of Ministry for Conservation
Dr. Bob Dumsday	Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, School of Agriculture, Latrobe University
Mr. Neil Lawrance	Farmer, Gatum R.S.D, Balmoral
Professor Alan Lloyd	Professor of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Melbourne
Professor Tom McMahon	Professor of Agricultural Engineering, University of Melbourne
Dr. Adrian Peck	Principal Research Scientist, Division of Groundwater Research, C.S.I.R.O. Western Australia
Mr. Russell (F.R.) Smith	Farmer, Pyramid Hill
Mrs. Sharman Stone	Teacher, Rural Sociologist

APPENDIX 3

Advertisement inviting Registration of Consultants



**REGISTRATION OF
CONSULTANTS
SALINITY COMMITTEE**

The Victorian Parliament has appointed a Joint Select Committee to inquire into the salinity of land and water with particular reference to —

(a) the social, environmental and economic effects of:

(i) dry land salinity;

(ii) salinity associated with irrigation; and

(iii) increased salinity in rivers and streams as a result of factors within Victorian control.

(b) opportunities for co-operative efforts in salinity control involving other State Governments and the Australian Government;

(c) methods of meeting the costs of salinity control; and

(d) administrative and other arrangements for salinity control, including integration with other aspects of land and water management.

The Committee is required to give priority to an inquiry into the Barr Creek catchment, the Mineral Reserve Basin and Lake Tyrrell schemes, and to the allocation of water in Northern Victoria following the completion of the Dartmouth Reservoir.

The work of the Committee will be aided by consultancy studies when appropriate.

Consultants who may be able to undertake studies relevant to any of the terms of reference of the Committee are now invited to register their interest. Information forwarded by prospective consultants should include: sources available for consultancy work, including areas of special skill or expertise; previous experience in consultancy; and a statement of those topics under the terms of reference of the Committee for which consultancy work could be undertaken.

Registrations should be sent by Friday 8 April 1983 to:

**Secretary,
Joint Select Committee on Salinity,
Parliament House,
Melbourne, 3004.**

*For further information, telephone (03) 6518 911
Ext. 252.*

APPENDIX 4.

List of consultants registered with the
Salinity Committee

ACIL Australia Pty. Ltd.
Consultant in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Adrian Davey
Applied Natural Resource Management

Australian Agricultural Consulting and
Management Company Pty. Ltd.

Australian Groundwater Consultants Pty. Ltd.
Geohydrologists & Engineers

Binnie & Partners Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers

Hugh Caffrey
Formerly Secretary, Public Works Committee

Caldwell Connell Engineers Pty. Ltd.

Cameron McNamara
Consultants

Catchment Education Trust

Catchment River and Coastal Engineering Pty. Ltd.

Coffey & Partners Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers

Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation
Institute of Energy & Earth Resources

Consulting and Research Pty. Ltd.
Strategic & Development Planning

Control Data Australia Pty. Ltd.
Engineering Technology Centre

Coopers & Lybrand Services
Management Consultants

Croft & Associates Pty. Ltdd.
Consultants in Environmental Sciences

Dames & Moore
Environmental, Geotechnical, Mining. Energy
and Planning Consultants

Collin C. Donges & Associates Pty. Ltd.
Consultants

Dwyer Leslie Pty. Ltd.
Applied Economists and Agricultirists

Effective Management Pty. Ltd.
Consultants to Government and Industry

Fisher and Dowell Pty. Ltd.
Consultant Engineers, Surveyors & Planners

Forestry Technical Services Pty. Ltd.
Consultants in Natural Resources Management

Kevin J. Foley & Associates Pty. Ltd.
Management Consultants

Garlick & Stewart
Consulting Engineers & Surveyors

Geoterrex Pty. Ltd.
Geophysicists

Golder Associates Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Geotechnical & Mining Engineers

Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers, Planners, Surveyors

Hanly Consulting Pty. Ltd.
Applied Psychologists

David John
Environmental Engineer

Keith Mc Nicol Pty. Ltd.
Irrigation Control Equipment

Kinhill Stearns
Engineers

John E. Low
Environmental Policy & Planning

McGowan International Pty. Ltd.
Agricultural Consultants - Australia

J. D. McKinnon & Partners
Agricultural & Civil Consulting Engineers

McLachlan Group Pty. Ltd.
Management Consultants

Dr. J. W. Marchant
Geochemist

Maunsell & Partners Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers and Planners

J. L. Maver
Consulting Civil Engineer

Dr. I. Molnar
Agricultural Scientist

Natural Systems Research Pty. Ltd.
Environmental Consultants

D. Naunton & Co.
Consultants in Agriculture and Management

Neilson Associates
Consultants in Planning, Research and Government Liaison

K. D. Nelson & Associates
Consulting Civil Engineers

P.A. International
Management Consultants

Planning Workshop Pty. Ltd.

Michael Read and Associates
Agricultural Economists

SARDD
Swinburne Applied Research & Development Division

Geoffrey A. Sawyer
Geographer

Scott & Furphy Engineers Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers & Planners

W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd.
Management Consultants

Sinclair Knight & Partners Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers

Siromath Pty. Ltd.

Social & Ecological Assessment Pty. Ltd.

Task Consultants Pty. Ltd.
Research & Consulting Services

Techsearch Inc.
The South Australian Institute of Technology

R. Travers Morgan Pty. Ltd.
Planning, Engineering, Economic & Environmental Consultants

University of Melbourne
Institute of Applied Economic & Social Research

Urban & Environmental Planning Group

D. F. Walker
Land Valuer

I. Wallis & Associates Pty. Ltd.
Environmental Science, Water Resources and Civil Engineering

Wardrop, Humphries and Associates
Agricultural, Mining and Financial Consultants

Water Science Laboratories Pty. Ltd.
Environmental Scientists & Engineers

Willing & Partners Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers

Winders Barlow & Morrison Pty. Ltd.
Consulting Engineers

APPENDIX 5

Standard working arrangements and general conditions for consultancy engagements

- 1 The Salinity Committee will invite several of those consultants registered with it to submit proposals to it outlining -
 - (a) personnel to be deployed by the consultant on the project; their qualifications and experience;
 - (b) proposed methodology;
 - (c) estimate of resources to be allocated to project;
 - (d) fees to be charged.
- 2 A Steering Committee will oversight the study and will be required to approve the work programme.
- 3 All consultant's staff associated with the study will be subject to the approval of the Steering Committee and no changes in consultant's staff will be made except under conditions approved by the Steering Committee.
- 4 All reports of the consultant will be submitted to the Steering Committee and the consultant will be solely responsible for each report.
- 5 The consultant will be responsible for typing the Committee's reports. However, the cost of publishing the reports will be borne by the Committee.
- 6 The consultant will be required to submit to the Steering Committee, on a prescribed basis, a written statement outlining -
 - (a) consultant days worked by each staff member associated with the study.
 - (b) matters requiring attention by the Steering Committee concerning the study;
 - (c) progress against target dates to meet the deadline.
- 7 The property and copyright in all contract material shall vest in the Government of Victoria. The consultant, its employees and agents shall not use any material produced for the purpose of the study for any purpose other than for the study without the prior approval in writing of the Salinity Committee.
- 8 The Salinity Committee at any time upon giving notice in writing to the consultant of its intention so to do may abrogate or constrict the contract or any part or further part thereof and upon such notice being given the consultant shall cease or reduce work according to the tenor of the notice and shall forthwith do everything possible to mitigate costs consequent thereto.

9 The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law for the time being in force in the State of Victoria.

APPENDIX 6

Departmental Salinity Liaison Committee

Role of Members

- 1 To identify and, where possible, collate relevant information in the member's organisation, in preparation for its use by consultants of the Salinity Committee.
- 2 To participate in the procedure for selecting the consultants.
- 3 To act as a liaison between the consultants and the member's organisation, with responsibility for ensuring that the consultants are aware of, and have access to, all relevant information.
- 4 To monitor the progress of the consultant studies, to contribute to the review of draft reports, and to advise the Salinity Committee as appropriate.

Membership

Mr. Dennis Cahill	Deputy Chairman Soil Conservation Authority
Mr. Keith Collett	Senior Designing Engineer State Rivers & Water Supply Commission
Mr. Dennis Monahan	Principal Water Quality Officer Environment Protection Authority
Mr. Peter Holbeach	Chief Planning & Assessment Officer, Resources & Planning Branch - Fisheries & Wildlife Division
Dr. John Langford	Co-ordinator of State Water Plan, Ministry for Water Resources
Dr. Charles Lawrence	Supervising Geologist, Groundwater Branch, Department of Minerals & Energy
Mr. Ian Norman	Salinity Co-ordinator, Department of Agriculture

APPENDIX 7

Advertisement inviting applications for the position of
Director of Research



**DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
SALINITY COMMITTEE**

The Salinity Committee was appointed by the Victorian Parliament to investigate and report upon the salinity of land and water in Victoria.

A Director of Research is required by the Committee to provide professional support in the design and conduct of studies and investigations, the selection and commissioning of consultants, liaison with public agencies and to prepare working papers and reports as directed.

The successful applicant must have a suitable tertiary qualification and have experience in the control of research programmes and demonstrated ability in the conduct of investigations and in the preparation of reports.

A salary in the range \$30,000 to \$40,000 will be negotiated according to qualifications and experience. The term of the appointment will be for 2 years and the conditions of employment will be similar to those applying in the Victorian Public Service.

The Committee will consider applications for secondment or fixed term appointment from public servants, academics and others. Applications should be sent, no later than 8th December, 1982, to:-

**The Chairman,
Salinity Committee,
Parliament House,
MELBOURNE 3002.**

For further information, phone (03) 651 8911 ext 252.

**R. W. PURDEY,
Secretary.**