

## **OH 424 - The River Murray - Test Case for the Environment and the Constitution: A Public Forum**

### **TAPE 1, SIDE B - Dryland salinity**

There's another major problem that we're only just beginning to see. That is the problem of dryland salinity. I talked about irrigation area salinity a little while ago, but we now know that because of the removal of 15 billion trees out of the Basin by us and our forefathers and foremothers, that the problem is now that those trees, which were great pumps for water and allowed the ground water levels to remain relatively low...but once you remove them the ground water levels start to rise and as those levels get close to the surface, they get within one or two metres, salinity starts to move up to the surface. And that is now starting to become obvious in large parts of the basin.