

# APPENDIX H

**Press Release - approved by Minister Armitage's office  
(Department of Environment & Heritage, South  
Australia).**

***Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils Program  
Demonstrating amelioration of Acid Sulfate Soils,  
Barker Inlet / Gillman area, South Australia***

July, 2001



CSIRO

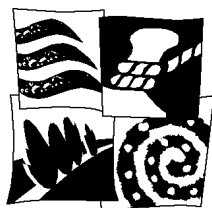
CSIRO LAND and WATER



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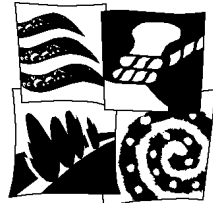
## Media Release

Mr Nick Goldie                      02 6276 6478  
Mobile                                      0417 299 586  
Fax    02 6276 6821

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A Commonwealth Government Initiative **Port Adelaide Enfield**

## PARTNERSHIP TO INVESTIGATE ACID SULPHATE SOILS

Scientists are joining forces with state and local authorities and industry representatives to tackle acid sulphate soils in the Gillman and Barker Inlet areas.

CSIRO Land and Water's Dr Rob Fitzpatrick has announced a partnership between the Commonwealth and State Government Agencies and industry.

"The partnership provides us with a unique opportunity to bring together key agencies and organisations and gather essential information about the nature and impact of acid sulphate soils in South Australia", Dr Fitzpatrick says.

Dr Fitzpatrick says that it is important for industry and land management authorities to understand the cause of acid sulphate soils and how they might be managed.

"Acid sulphate soils are most commonly found in coastal regions where present-day mangroves and salt marshes (and prehistoric buried areas) have been cleared or disturbed", he says.

These soils are usually safe if left undisturbed.

"However, once you drain them the sulfides within them react with the oxygen in the air to create acidic conditions, as we have found in the Eastern states," says Dr Fitzpatrick.

The new partnership will provide South Australia with an opportunity to advance its knowledge of acid sulphate soils and to set new benchmarks in management practises, according to Port Adelaide Enfield Council's policy planner Ms Shanti Ditter.

"The partnership includes a commitment from all parties to fund a PhD student to gather fundamental knowledge about acid sulphate soils in SA and develop innovative soil treatment methods such as bioremediation, liming and sea water flushing", says Ms Ditter.

"This partnership is an example of all levels of Government working together with industry to better identify and manage environmental impacts."

The two-year partnership includes the Commonwealth's Coastal Acid Sulphate Soils Program, Port Adelaide Enfield Council, CSIRO, Land Management Corporation, Penrice Soda Products, Department of Environment and Heritage, Salisbury Council, Torrens Catchment Water Management Board, Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board and the St Kilda Mangrove Trail and Interpretive Centre.

The Barker Inlet and Port Estuary Committee (BIPEC) will act as the steering committee for the project.

***More information from:***

***Dr Rob Fitzpatrick, CSIRO Land and Water 08 8 303 8511 Mobile: 0408 824 215***

***Ms Shanti Ditter, Port Adelaide Enfield Council, 08-8405-6727 Mobile 040403 5784***

***Ms Lynne Griffiths, CSIRO Land and Water 08 8303 8513***

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