



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**  
Inquiry into rural skills training and research

**MEDIA ALERT**

*Issued: 8 August 2006*

*Chair: Alby Schultz MP*  
*Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP*

# Committee questions department's role in agricultural education, training and research

**Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra – 9 August 2006**

The **Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)** will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee tomorrow (Wednesday 9 August) for its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

The DAFF submission (no. 66 on the committee's website) identifies a number of areas of concern with the current system of agricultural education, training and research. These include, for example, the need for:

- increased industry engagement
- increased collaboration between producers, representative organisations, the training industry and other key stakeholders
- a flexible and relevant VET system, and
- the promotion of agribusiness and careers in agriculture.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said that "there are many challenges currently facing agricultural education, training and research today".

"It is important to discuss these, and subsequently develop and implement appropriate courses of action to ensure the profitability and sustainability of Australian agriculture," Mr Schultz said. "The committee is particularly interested in hearing more about how the Federal Government can improve government programs, and the support provided to rural communities."

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ruralskills/>

or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing

[aff.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:aff.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment:** please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on (02) 6277 4386 or email [Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au).

**For more information:** please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.