



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 21 September 2009

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES**
Inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

Farmers and climate change in Western Australia

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee will be holding a public hearing in **Perth** on the afternoon of **Thursday 24 September**, and property inspections at **Geraldton** on **Friday 25 September**.

In Perth, the Committee will hear from representatives of the **Western Australian Farmers Federation** (Submission no. 28). The submission notes the “potential benefits of involving farmers and farming communities in the response to climate change”. The Federation believes that “farmers would welcome the opportunity to take a holistic approach to achieve the required balance of profitability and sustainability to ensure that they can remain as land managers”.

The property inspections at Geraldton will be conducted in conjunction with the Western Australian **Department of Agriculture and Food** (Submission no. 61) and representatives of the **Australian Soil Carbon Accreditation Scheme** (Submission no. 52). The will Committee see the work of local property owners who are using perennial plants to maintain ground cover all year round, thereby improving soil health and water retention, in both cropping and pasture systems.

The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, noted that the Committee’s visit to Western Australia would allow it to see at first hand the work being done with perennial plants to rejuvenate soils in cropping and pasture systems, and discuss with farmers the efficacy of soil carbon sequestration. He said: “Soil carbon sequestration is advocated as a win-win solution for production and the environment, allowing farmers to increase productivity through improved soil health while drawing down atmospheric carbon and storing it in the soil. Having looked at this issue in other parts of Australia, the Committee is interested to see what’s being done in Western Australia.”

PUBLIC HEARING—Perth, Thursday 24 September 2009

WHERE: Citigate Hotel, 707 Wellington St Perth
WHEN: Thursday 24 September 2009, 2.00pm–3.00pm

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500 or 0419 468 689 (24–25 September only), email pir.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pir>