



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 26 June 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*

Irrigators, horticulturists and NSW Government to discuss a changing climate and farming

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee will be holding public hearings in **Sydney** on **1 July**, and a series of property inspections in the **Tamworth** district on **2 July**.

In Sydney, the Committee will hear from representatives of a range of groups with an interest in the future of Australian agriculture in the face of climate change, including the **NSW Irrigators' Council**, **Horticulture Australia**, and the **NSW Government**. Details of the program are available on the Committee's website.

The property inspections at Tamworth will be an opportunity for the Committee to examine on-ground farming innovations for adaptation to climate variability and climate change, including soil and vegetation management and holistic farming techniques. The Committee will be meeting with farmers at the cutting edge of climate change adaptation, to learn about what they are doing and what they see as the role of government in supporting climate change adaptation.

The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: "We already have evidence of what is going wrong and what can be done to fix it. The committee wants to see first hand how farmers are already adapting to climate change so that we can make recommendations to government about how to support these people and support this process of adaptation."

Mr Adams highlighted the important work being done by leaders and innovators in the farming community, and the need to promote innovation and leadership on-farm. He noted that "supporting on-farm innovation is crucial to managing effective adaptation to climate change. We need effective two-way lines of communication between farmers, researchers and policy makers if we are to meet the challenge of climate change".

PUBLIC HEARING—Sydney, Wednesday 1 July 2009

WHERE: Cliftons, 190-200 George St, Sydney
WHEN: Wednesday 1 July 2009, 10am–4pm

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, email pir.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pir>