



## **MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 28 August 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*

## **Victorian farmers to discuss farming and changing climate**

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 **Melbourne** on **3 September**, and a series of property inspections in the **Otway** region on **2 September** and the **Hamilton** district on **4 September**.

In Melbourne, the Committee will hear from representatives of a diverse range of groups with an interest in the future of Australian agriculture in the face of climate change, including:

- The Victorian Farmers Federation
- Dairy Australia
- Apple & Pear Australia
- The South West Climate Change Forum
- The Murray Irrigators Support Group
- RM Consulting Group
- Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc
- Australian Women in Agriculture
- Ignite Energy Resources

Details of the program are available on the Committee's website.

The property inspections at Colac will allow the Committee to see the work of the **Otway Agroforestry Network**, which has as its focus the wider adoption of commercial vegetation management as an integral component of more productive and environmentally sustainable farming. The Hamilton inspections will involve visits to research sites managed by the **Future Farm Industries CRC**, as well as local farmers at the forefront of managing farming systems for climate variability and climate change.

The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: "We are seeing at first hand the range of innovation being undertaken to deal with climate variability and climate change. There is much good work being done by farmers and researchers. We need to find ways to bring all these innovations together, test them, and disseminate them to the broader farming community. We need to be clever not just about how we do things, but how we collect information and transfer that knowledge to others."

#### **PUBLIC HEARING—Melbourne, Thursday 3 September 2009**

**WHERE:** Monash Conference Centre, 30 Collins St Melbourne, level 11—Collins St Boardroom  
**WHEN:** Thursday 3 September 2009, 8.30am—4.15pm

**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](mailto:D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au)

**Further information:** contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500 or 0419 468 689 (2-4 September), email [pir.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:pir.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pir>