



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 14 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*

Getting the policy right

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the Primary Industries and Resources Committee will hear from representatives of the **National Farmers' Federation (NFF)** and the **Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)** at a public hearing to be held on **16 September 2009**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra, at **5.00pm**.

The NFF believes that provided with the correct tools, Australian agriculture can continue to be productive and innovative, even in the face of a changing climate. However, the NFF notes in its submission to the inquiry (Submission no. 17) that "Research and Development (R&D) will be required to play a critical role at a time when resources being committed towards agricultural R&D are dissipating at a concerning rate".

In its submission (Submission no. 65), the Bureau of Meteorology highlights the importance of climate science to the future of Australian agriculture. The Bureau notes that many of its "products and services are targeted at farmers and will be important tools to help farmers not only mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on their industry but also to optimise future productivity under what may become a very different climatic regime".

The Committee is looking forward to discussing these matters with representatives of the NFF and the BoM. The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: "This Committee has on several occasions highlighted the importance of agricultural research, development and extension to the future of Australian agriculture, including in its comprehensive 2007 report on the matter, *Skills: Rural Australia's Need*. We are anxious to see that there is the necessary RD&E investment in agriculture to ensure the future of Australia's farmers in the face of climate change."

Mr Adams also noted that during the course of the inquiry the Committee had taken evidence on the importance of seasonal and long-term climate forecasts, especially at a local and regional level. "Getting the climate forecasts right will allow farmers to effectively adapt to climate change and ensure the food security of Australia," he said.

PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 16 September 2009

WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Wednesday 16 September 2009, 5.00pm
WEBCAST: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (02) 6277 4293 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>