



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 7 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*

Cutting edge research for farmers

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the House Primary Industries and Resources Committee will hear from representatives of the **Future Farm Industries CRC (FFICRC)** and the **Australian Bureau of Statistics** at a public hearing to be held on **9 September 2009**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra, at **5pm**.

The FFICRC (Submission no. 67) is engaged in cutting edge research to transform farming in Australia, to make it more responsive and resilient in the face of climate variability and climate change. FFICRC is also at the forefront of attempts to convert research into effective solutions on farm, something it regards as critical to the success of research outcomes. In its submission, FFICRC notes that "Commonwealth Government agencies administering funding programs for land use change have failed to achieve high rates of adoption by farmers. There is compelling evidence for this, and that a primary reason is lack of profitable options for farmers". FFICRC argues that overall investment in agricultural R&D "is not large enough, not long enough and not sufficiently allocated to new profitable solutions for farmers".

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, Submission no. 64) is Australia's national statistical agency. It has been responsible for collecting a range of information pertaining to agriculture since its inception. The ABS submission highlights the capacity of the Bureau to collect and disseminate highly refined information at a local and regional level—an important tool for decision making at a farm and catchment level—if the funding resources are available.

The Committee is looking forward to discussing these matters. The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: "The Committee is aware of the important research work being done to support agriculture and the problems with turning research work into workable on-farm solutions. We are also aware of the need to get good information through to decision-makers and farmers so that they make the right choices in responding to climate change. These are issues that must be addressed if we are to maintain and sustain our food and fibre production."

PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 9 September 2009

WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Wednesday 9 September 2009, 5pm
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>