



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 20 October 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*

CSIRO on helping farmers adapt to climate extremes

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the House Primary Industries and Resources Committee will hear from the **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)** at a public hearing on **21 October 2009**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra, at **5.00pm**.

CSIRO maintains that Australian agriculture, which already has to manage extreme climatic variability, is in a position to be leading Australian industry in innovative and proactive responses to climate change. CSIRO notes in its submission to the inquiry (Submission no. 19) that “for primary industries to continue to thrive in the future the sector needs to anticipate these changes, be prepared for uncertainty, and develop and implement adaptation strategies now.”

In its submission CSIRO highlight a range of specific on-farm adaptation options for Australian agriculture. However, “little attention has yet been given to the impacts of climate change on the whole value chain of food from production, to processing, to transport, to retail supply and to changing consumer demands and preferences, and the adaptation responses that are needed to climate impacts. More effort needs to go into this area of supply chains from the food industry. ”

The Committee is looking forward to discussing these matters with representatives of the CSIRO. The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: “This Committee recognises the importance of supporting downstream processing as part of an overall effort to support Australian agriculture. We are anxious to see that there is the necessary support in place for agriculture and its associated industries to ensure a sound future in the face of climate change.”

PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 21 October 2009

WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Wednesday 21 October 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>