

**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*

Grass roots leadership

Southern New England Landcare (Submission no. 39) is an example of grass roots action to transform farming systems and make them sustainable. They have conducted innovative work in improving the economic and environmental sustainability of farming in their region and are regional leaders in the development of engineered woodlands. Their submission emphasises that **“for landholders to take ownership and responsibility for changed practices they must drive the direction of the change”**.

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the Primary Industries and Resources Committee will hear from representatives of **Southern New England Landcare Ltd** and the **Grain Growers Association** at a public hearing to be held on **19 August 2009**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra, at **5pm**.

In its submission, the Grain Growers Association (Submission no. 46) highlights the need for win-win solutions to the challenge of climate change: “There should be a strong incentive to promote the development of an holistic approach to farming and food production in a low carbon economy. We strongly support the development of an alternate pathway for the agricultural sector to make a positive contribution towards improved food security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions **and** avoiding adverse climate change impacts.”

The Committee is looking forward to discussing these matters. The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: “The Committee has seen the value of grass roots leadership and action in adapting to climate change. Government and industry must encourage and support farmers to take the initiative in adaptation by providing resources to landholders and those engaged in directly supporting them. Adapting to climate change cannot be a purely policy driven exercise. People must be engaged and given the opportunity to take responsibility and provide leadership at a local level. Only then will we get meaningful responses to the threat of climate change.”

PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 19 August 2009

WHERE: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN: Wednesday 19 August 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

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