



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Issued: 25 May 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*

# **Meeting the climate change challenge**

Australian farmers are renowned for their resilience and adaptability in the face of climate variability. The question is, "how well will they adapt to climate change?"

The House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee has commenced its inquiry into the role of government in assisting Australian farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Committee is investigating how farmers can better adapt to the challenges of changing climate, focussing on innovation and adaptation at the enterprise level, on the ground, and the role of government and research organisations in supporting this.

The first public hearing will be held on **27 May 2009**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra. The Committee will hear from representatives of the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)** on current research efforts to prepare the Australian grains industry for the impacts of climate change. In its submission, GRDC notes that "the rural industries have, and always will, face the challenges presented by climate change".

The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: "It is vital that Australia's agricultural industries meet the challenge of climate change. Australia's food security and export income is at stake. Australia's farmers are innovative and adaptable. Individuals are rising to the challenge. We need whole industries to rise to the challenge, and we need governments to facilitate that process."

Mr Adams noted that in the past government funded agricultural research had played a major role in enhancing the productivity and sustainability of Australian agriculture. "Now, more than ever, we need governments to provide leadership and funding in agricultural research to ensure that Australian farmers remain globally competitive."

#### **PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 27 May 2009**

**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**WHEN:** Wednesday 27 May 2009, 5pm

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

**Further information:** contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500, 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>