



## MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 23 June 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*

# It's about the trees and the soil

At its next public hearing, the House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee will be getting two different perspectives on how Australian farmers can best adapt to climate change.

The Committee will hear from representatives of the **National Association of Forest Industries** (NAFI) on the synergies between agriculture and forestry in mitigating and adapting to climate change and **Dr Christine Jones**, a leading soil carbon scientist. The public hearing will be held on **24 June 2009**, in Committee Room **1R3**, Parliament House, Canberra, at **5pm**.

In its submission, NAFI states that “one of the most important ways that government can help agriculture adapt to the impacts of climate change is in its support for forestry as a complementary land use at both regional and farm scales, including joint land use activities such as agroforestry and farm forestry”.

In her submission, Dr Jones highlights the importance of soil health to agriculture. “In addition to enabling the farming community to more effectively deal with warmer, drier conditions, the restoration of landscape function will result in the active drawdown of excess CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere via stable biosequestration in soils.”

The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, said: “We know that forestry is one of the few industries that is actively sequestering carbon. We are keen to explore how this can be done in conjunction with agriculture.”

Mr Adams also highlighted the important work of soil scientists such as Dr Jones who are exploring ways of improving soil fertility while increasing the capacity of agricultural soils to store carbon. He noted that “such innovations are vital to the future of agriculture, both in mitigating the impacts of climate change and adapting to them”.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING—Canberra, Wednesday 24 June 2009**

**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
**WHEN:** Wednesday 24 June 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](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>