



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Inquiry into rural skills training and research

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 15 August 2006

Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP

Department's knowledge of agricultural education, training and research questioned

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra – 16 August 2006

The **Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST)** will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee tomorrow (Wednesday 16 August) for its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

There are number of areas of concern for the committee, including:

- DEST's leadership role in agricultural education, training and research
- arrangements under the Australian Apprenticeships scheme
- the review of the vocational education and training (VET) system
- the strengths and weaknesses of Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), and
- the level of participation of women in agricultural education, training and research programs.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said that "the committee is interested in hearing more about how the Federal Government can improve government programs, and the support provided to agricultural education, research and training".

"There are many challenges facing agricultural education, training and research, and the committee is interested in ensuring that the Government can meet those challenges". Mr Schultz said.

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ruralskills/>

or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing

aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment: please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on (02) 6277 4386 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For more information: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.