

2008 Annual Conference

30 Years As One Voice

Media Release



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Full carbon cycle important

The NSW Farmers' Association will urge the Federal Government to ensure that any accounting system applying to agriculture under the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) takes into account the full carbon cycle, including all emissions and sequestration.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory is based on Kyoto greenhouse gas accounting methodology.

"This represents the Government's current view of agricultural emissions, but they incorrectly describe this data as "net" amounts. The accounting construct doesn't include agricultural sinks such as the sequestration that continually occurs in soil and groundcover," Mr Laurie said.

"When you try and account for the emissions from cattle, you should also consider that the grass and grain these animals live on are carbon sinks," he said.

"The Association has made representations via the National Farmers Federation about the general need to improve carbon accounting for agriculture so as to reward sequestration and to accurately reflect the net position.

"This motion reflects the concern farmers feel about the impracticalities of measuring, monitoring and verifying agricultural emissions, the need to fully grasp agriculture's life cycle to account for carbon stored in soil, crops and pastures; and the need to challenge the international Kyoto rules to reflect Australia's particular circumstances.

"NSW farmers are committed to finding workable new ways to reduce the sector's carbon footprint and ways farmers can adopt solutions to build on our leading contribution to reducing emissions on an equitable basis, but it does need to be equitable.

"We are calling on Government to introduce a true balance sheet accounting for terrestrial systems before agriculture is included in the CPRS," Mr Laurie concluded.

This motion was debated at the NSW Farmers' Association's Annual Conference, continuing today.

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