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## Association to lobby for first farm buyers grants

The NSW Farmers' Association Executive Council has today voted to lobby the Federal Government to establish a 'First Farm Buyers Grant' for young and establishing farmers.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says Councillors at today's meeting in Tamworth voted to lobby for an extension to the existing first home owners grant to include farms.

"Young farmers are the future of agriculture, yet it is extremely hard for young people to break into farm ownership due to the high capital outlay," Mr Laurie said.

"The Association has long identified the need to develop mechanisms to facilitate young farmers' entry into agriculture.

"In moving this motion, we are aiming to assist farm buyers in their first land purchase, demonstrating our commitment and belief in the farmers of the future," Mr Laurie said.

In lobbying for the Grant, the Association will suggest to the Federal Government that zoning titles are used to determine farming land and the establishment of agricultural production on the land occurs within 12 months of the purchase date.

The Association will lobby that the Grant be a cash payment to the first farm buyer of ten per cent of the land purchase price, to a limit of \$100,000. This payment would ideally assist in the establishment of the farming enterprise, such as purchasing stock and infrastructure.

"This motion is the result of the recent Young Farmers Forum in Forbes, which attracted a group of young passionate farmers and agribusiness professionals from across the State," Mr Laurie said.

"One of the key messages that came out of this Forum for me was that there is such a strong future for agriculture in the hands of these young farmers.

"As we're all aware, the average age of farmers is rising. In order to ensure that the next generation gets the opportunity to lead the industry, we must give them the assistance they need today.

"This isn't just about securing funding for our future farmers, it's about ensuring we actually have farmers in the future," Mr Laurie concluded.

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