

Dear Members,



It's now been two weeks since Annual Conference, and what a two weeks it has been. I've had a busy fortnight getting to know the ropes of my new role and immersing myself in the many complex and diverse issues affecting our Members across the State – be it emissions trading, water, standards and guidelines or Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, to name but a few. And what a better time to start than with the debate of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in Federal Parliament.

As an Association, we welcome yesterday's rejection of the CPRS in the Senate. I believe the CPRS Bill failed to provide certainty regarding the treatment of agriculture and was problematic in a number of areas, particularly regarding the carbon accounting rules that would apply and how agriculture would be shielded from negative impacts of a carbon price in relation to international competition.

Farmers have already made a major contribution and agriculture is the only sector to have reduced its emissions. Forcing agriculture into the CPRS would be counter-productive – instead, we need positive incentives to increase carbon sequestration on farms.

We are pleased that in recent months, the Government has begun to acknowledge our concerns about the inclusion of agriculture in the scheme and about how agricultural emissions are accounted for. It is unfair to make us as farmers pay for emissions if we are not also given credit for off sets and sequestration and it is misleading to claim that agriculture is a major source of greenhouse pollution.

Rest assured that we will leave no stone unturned in seeking the best possible outcome on this issue and making sure our message is heard.

The work on this and many other issues has already begun. Your new Board, Executive Councillors and Committees are wasting no time in getting on with achieving the motions decided by you, the Members, at Conference.

An issue like the CPRS affects all of us in agriculture – regardless of what we produce or where we live - and makes us appreciate the need for strength in numbers. This is why one of our major priorities is Membership and we will be launching a new Membership Drive at AgQuip next week. We are asking all our current Members to help us in encouraging other farmers to join our Association.

With each new Member, we will be building a stronger and brighter future for agriculture in NSW. And best of all for our Members, if you refer a new Member, you will receive an extra three months added to your Membership when you renew at no extra cost. So you will be getting 15 months of Membership for the cost of 12, as will the new Member you sign up. Attached is a Membership form – please feel free to pass it on to your family, friends or neighbours.

On a final note, we have just started a new form of communication to Members this week via YouTube. You can watch me speak about the CPRS and Membership by following this link: www.youtube.com/user/NSWFarmers

I look forward to meeting many of you in my travels to AgQuip next week.

Yours in farming,
Charles Armstrong

If you no longer wish to receive the NSW Farmers' Presidents Update simply [click here](#) to unsubscribe. If you are having difficulty unsubscribing from this page please email us on msc@nswfarmers.org.au and we will remove you from our list.