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Fertiliser questions remain

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging Members to get involved in the reopened Senate Inquiry into pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global fertiliser market.

The Association has provided a submission to the previous Senate inquiry, and NSW Farmers' Association Grains Committee Chair Mark Hoskinson says it will be continuing to provide details of farmers concerns.

"We appear to have a problem in these markets. The apparent lack of transparency and clear market information gives rise to scepticism of market distortions and advantageous pricing structures," Mr Hoskinson said.

"Independent research shows that there appears to be no supply shortage of fertiliser. In fact a growing surplus is forecast.

"Yet often retailers cannot inform the customer of when it will be available or at what price. Given the regular and constant demand for this product, we have to question this," he said.

The Inquiry commenced in February 2009 and reported its recommendations in August 2009. The Association requested it be reopened following concerns about ongoing problems in fertiliser markets.

"We have had no response from the Federal Government from the recommendations of the previous Inquiry, and the problems persist.

"We strongly encourage our Members to either contact the Association so we can include their information in what we provide to the Inquiry, or Members can provide their own submission," Mr Hoskinson concluded.

For details, contact the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000.

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