

Media Release

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Grain supply concerns in Sydney Basin

NSW Farmers' Association Executive Councilors have met with Federal Member for Mitchell, the Hon. Alex Hawke recently to discuss the concerns and difficulties faced by the intensive industries in securing adequate supplies of grains at reasonable price during drought.

NSW Farmers' Association Region 7 Chair Ted Byers says the total NSW grain supply during drought years decreases by close to 51% and domestic demand increases by 7% resulting in grain shortages for intensive industries and the doubling of prices.

"Our Members profitability is affected as the cost of production goes up due to increases in grain prices without a corresponding increase in farm gate prices," Mr Byers said.

"We explained to Mr Hawke that the Government should provide incentives to the private sector to invest in facilities within metropolitan areas to allay the concerns of grain growers and to open up opportunities for livestock industries to access cheaper imported grains during droughts," he said.

"The situation could also be improved if Biosecurity Australia introduces 'Trace Supply Pathways' that meets stakeholder requirements for safe distribution of imported whole grains to metropolitan sites.

"We have explained to our local Member that while the Single Desk for wheat marketing has been abolished and it is possible that some companies may offer more grains on the local market, this remains to be seen.

"This issue is often overlooked, but it is of high significance, and we hope that this meeting proves productive in informing the Government of this problem," Mr Byers concluded.

Contact:

Amanda Barwick (Media Manager) 0428 400 736
Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

