

CRM

Climate Change

Carbon Market Design Principles

AC 07 GW2 That the Association call on Governments to ensure that under an Australian carbon market:

- a) require the energy sector to purchase carbon credits equal to the greenhouse gases generated by their operations
- b) it is scientifically demonstrable that an offset or emissions credit trading scheme will achieve genuine reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions;
- c) regulation is in place to protect carbon markets from manipulation and ensure probity;
- d) there is a separation in the market between creators and purchasers of credits provided and independent bank or trade clearing house through which all transactions must pass;
- e) there is a common, clearly defined unit for carbon trading;
- f) the reporting system recognises and treats differently, emissions arising from the extraction and use of fossilized carbon sources, and emissions that are a natural part of the recycling of carbon that occurs through agricultural production;
- g) carbon credits created on farmland are not nationalized. Any credits created on farm are the property of the individual farm;
- h) agriculture is not subjected to a mandated cap and any market applying to agricultural should be voluntary; and
- i) market options be investigated that enable farmers to link their production to carbon sequestration services.

Carbon Sequestration

AC 08 That the Association lobby for funding for research into the value of carbon sequestration in agriculture so that carbon sequestered in soil by all forms of pasture, cropping and forestry can be quantified and valued across all climate and soil types.

AC 07 GW 1 That the Association lobby State and Federal Governments to:

- a) fund comprehensive research into identifying and quantifying agricultural systems' ability to sequester carbon, including in soil;
 - b) fund research into the value of agricultural sequestration to any carbon trading market;
 - c) oppose any attempt to apply a carbon tax to agriculture in Australia until all worldwide emissions are scientifically quantified and catalogued.
 - d) pursue a wide range of policy avenues for addressing climate change , including more flexible environmental and natural resource legislation;
 - e) increase investment in renewable energy, energy savings and other technologies to reduce fossil fuel emissions; and
- fund technological solutions to allow agriculture to increase its ability to sequester carbon.

Climate Change

05 Oct EC That the Association actively support any proposed Co-operative Research Centre for Climate Change to investigate opportunities for the agriculture sector.

AC 08 That the Association in conjunction with NFF, call upon the Federal Government to undertake a full and open examination of the science surrounding the theory of man-induced climate change.

Emissions Trading Scheme

AC 08 That the Association ensure that any accounting system applying to agriculture under the National Emissions Trading Scheme takes into account the full carbon cycle and is net of emissions and sequestration.

AC 08 That the Association insist that all carbon credits in any emissions trading scheme recognise the ongoing sequestration of standing vegetation of any age since Kyoto reference point of 1990 not 2008, so that farmers receive the full value of those credits from the time the Kyoto protocol was instigated, not from when it was ratified.

EC Mar 08 That the Association request National Farmers' Federation to develop the position statement on the Australian Emissions Trading Scheme, as follows:

That the National Farmers' Federation respond to the emerging framework of regulated emissions trading schemes as carbon dealing becomes central to major corporate and government decisions and strategies.

The NFF is concerned that scheme designers may neglect to address the special needs of agriculture when establishing the scheme rules and compensation model, believing that this can be deferred until closer to the date that agriculture becomes a covered sector. Impacts on agriculture, however, including higher input costs, reduced competitiveness in international markets and the distortionary impacts of a carbon price on regional communities, are likely to be substantial. This must be budgeted for in the total scheme design, in particular when deciding rules for distribution of compensation among affected sectors.

Conditions that must be met prior to agriculture's consideration of becoming a covered sector are given below. These conditions must be addressed and met in the initial scheme design.

1. General rules and provisions relating to agriculture must be established and budgeted for at scheme outset as

Emissions Trading Scheme

- part of an integrated national model and not deferred until such time as agriculture becomes a covered sector.
2. The scheme must include compensatory provisions for agriculture.
 3. Demonstrable, commercially viable abatement and sequestration options must be available for all agricultural sectors prior to their inclusion.
 4. Measurement and reporting of emissions must be accurate, verifiable and cost-effective.
 5. ETS accounting rules must reflect the net emissions/sequestration contribution of agriculture, including credits derived from standing vegetation of all ages.
 6. The competitiveness of Australian agricultural production must not be jeopardized.
 7. Initial emissions caps must reflect an operating environment in normal seasonal conditions while acknowledging agriculture's previous contribution.
 8. On-farm energy reductions and abatement measures must be credited to agriculture.
 9. The point of obligation for agriculture must have minimal transaction costs while not obscuring market signals.
 10. Limitations on rural Australia's capacity to abate emissions must be taken into account, including regulatory controls on landuse and the current paucity of scientific knowledge on abatement options.
 11. Investment must be made in regional infrastructure (e.g. freight transport efficiencies).
 12. Participation in stewardship and other environmental programs must not exclude carbon credit eligibility.
 13. The scheme design must minimise the potential for unintended, negative environmental outcomes from land sector abatement and sequestration incentives.

AC 08 That the Association be proactive in the "emission trading Scheme" debate and work with NFF where appropriate to ensure a fair and equitable outcome for farmers and agriculture in general.

Informing Members

AC 07 GW3 That the Association prepare and distribute a carbon credits explanation kit to all members to allow them to be informed when considering carbon credit schemes and to be aware of any ramifications and opportunities of such schemes.

Position Statement

EC Oct 07

Australia's climate is continuously changing. Evidence now suggests that climate is changing at a faster rate and has become more variable. As a sector highly exposed to changes in climate the Association believes that the agricultural sector must take action to address changing climatic conditions and increased climate variability in order to maintain and increase its productive capacity.

That the Association call on Australian Governments to ensure that:

1. Agriculture is consulted as a key stakeholder in all policy development processes related to climate change;
2. Agriculture is consulted as a key stakeholder in all market development processes related to climate change;
3. Governments contribute significant additional funds to enable critical research;
 - a) into the effects of climate change on farming systems, and
 - b) into the effects of Government policy responses to climate change on Agriculture; and
4. Agriculture's ability to contribute to solutions is promoted and developed;
5. The impacts of climate change policy are borne equitably across all industries and all sectors of the community.

Climate Forecasting

Climate Forecasting

99 Feb GC That the Association fully support the extension of the climate forecasting models, developed by the Agricultural Production Systems Research Unit, to cover the whole of NSW.

Commonwealth Control of Land Management

Section 51 (xxix) of the Constitution

97 Oct GC That the Association oppose any attempt by the Commonwealth Government to use section 51(xxix) of the Constitution as a means by which the Commonwealth obtains the capacity to legislate in respect of land management practices (or where such competence is already in existence, not to utilise such capacity).

Companion Animals

Effective Enforcement of Companion Animal Act 1998

AC 06 That the Association lobby to ensure effective enforcement of the Companion Animal Act 1998 by local government to deliver effective control of domestic dogs and prevent stock losses.

Conservation

Acquisition of Land for National Parks

AC 03 That the Association deplores the NSW Government decision to acquire more lands for national parks management when:

- (a) it fails to manage existing parks well for feral animals, weeds and bushfires
- (b) rural health, education, road and rail infrastructures and policing are all in desperate need of resources
- (c) it fails to meet other landholder community obligations by compensating or paying local government councils for rates and in the Western Division for wild dog rates.

AC 00 That the Association make representations to the NSW Government that no further national parks or Wilderness Areas be proclaimed until the current parks are adequately resourced to enable bushfire management, pest animal and weed control.

AC 95 That the Association press for a review of the proposed additional National Parks and Wilderness areas with respect to the economic impact on the industries and communities affected.

Classification of State Forest and National Parks

AC 04 That the Association lobby the NSW State Government:

- (a) to review its classification of State Forests and National Parks and establish an interim classification of State Park which would require the following defining features:
 - i) a parcel of land that has been identified as being desirable to be set aside as a National park in the future
 - ii) it would be self funding through forestry, grazing, tourism
 - iii) there is controlled access for recreational users
 - iv) a fire management plan is created
 - v) a feral fauna and flora control program is developed
 - vi) a documented plan for the relationship between the State Park and adjoining landholders is formulated
 - vii) a National Park cannot be created until a parcel of land has fully functioned as a State Park for five years
- (b) to alter the mechanism by which national parks are created such that it would require the scrutiny of a Standing Committee of the State Parliament and an extensive community consultation process to upgrade the classification of a State Park to National Park.

Control and Spread of Noxious Weeds

AC 02 That the Association negotiate with the NSW Government and NPWS in allowing local NPWS managers greater authority for meaningful and practical cooperation with their neighbouring rural landholders regarding:

- a. the control and spread of noxious weeds
- b. the control of wild dogs and feral animals from invading rural holdings
- c. fencelines

Controlled Grazing in National Parks

94 Oct GC That the Association request the National Parks & Wildlife Service to permit controlled grazing of National Parks under the following conditions:

- (a) only landholders breeding cows;
- (b) a maximum of 100 head per landholder; and
- (c) stock must be accompanied by the owner or the agent.

Criteria for Proposed Wilderness Declaration

94 Feb GC That the Association seek in respect of Proposed Wilderness Declarations the following preliminary list of requirements that ought to be taken into account by a Government for exclusions or otherwise from Wilderness Declarations:

- (a) walking tracks (with allowance 10 metres either side);
- (b) exclusion from the wilderness areas of a National Horse Trail, other horse trails and the Hume & Hovel Track, including an area each side of that trail of 100 metres. Such tracks and trails should be provided where necessary with ancillary facility areas.
- (c) continued use of all vehicular tracks and the maintenance thereof.
- (d) existing stock routes or reasonable extensions thereof.
- (e) substantial farmer representation on any wilderness management trust or committee to be established.
- (f) fire and management control zone setback from the boundary of any adjoining property for a distance of not less than 500 metres or more where topographical features dictate.
- (g) the ability for NPWS personnel, adjacent and adjoining owners and other authorised persons to use pesticides, baits and other control methods or trapping within an area of 500 metres or more, where topographical features dictate, of the land adjoining other property.
- (h) the right of adjoining landholders to clear/plough for fire protection within the nominated perimeter of buffer area and to clear regularly along fence lines.
- (i) river banks to be excluded to a width of 100 metres on each side of the river or creek.
- (j) access tracks for service vehicles such as Pacific Power, NPWS, Bushfire Brigade, etc, to be exempted and for 20 metres on each side of such track to be exempted and for the provision of "turn around" spaces every half a kilometre or so dependent upon the local terrain, but in any event the distance between such "turn around" spaces

Criteria for Proposed Wilderness Declaration

is not to exceed an interval of one kilometre.

(k) management plans settled and adequately funded in respect of each wilderness area and the perimeter surrounds which must include:

(i) plans for control of feral animals - including rabbits, cats, pigs, dogs, goats, wild dogs, etc;

(ii) plans for control of weeds;

(iii) plans to cope with such events as the outbreak of exotic diseases such as foot and mouth, rabies, etc; and

(iv) such management plans in any event of not less than is required of any other landholder.

(l) plans and budgets for the maintenance of fences, including wild dog fences, tracks, access trails, emergency landing pads.

(m) provision in the Wilderness areas of emergency landing grounds for search and rescue and fire fighting helicopters to be utilised in the event of engine failure or equipment malfunction.

(n) all Wilderness Management Plans to adopt and implement fire management practices as directed by the Bush Fire Services Department.

00 Feb GC That the Association continue to pursue that:

(a) no nomination for a proposed wilderness nomination can be declared without the approval of the land owner;

(b) any nomination not accepted (lapse and all public record of the nomination) be deleted;

(c) any property listed on the proposed wilderness register be able to change ownership without Ministerial approval.

Dividing Fence

98 Apr GC That the Association demand that the owners of public lands build and maintain dividing fences in the same manner and to a condition required of any private landholders.

National Parks

06 Oct EC That in consultation with the Shires Association, the Association highlight to the city media the financial burden on shires missing out on rate income when farms are transferred to the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

National Parks and Reserves

EC Oct 07 That the Association lobby the NSW Government to provide for multiple use of the State's national parks, including selective logging, controlled grazing and beekeeping, to ensure better biodiversity and bushfire management outcomes, and return to the Government some of the cost of running the national park estate.

National Parks Management Plans

97 Oct GC That the Association press for a complete independent management and environmental audit of all national parks.

94 Feb GC That the Association seek to have the National Parks & Wildlife Service properly focused and re-organised. In particular that the Association seek to ensure that the following matters occur:

(a) preparation and publication of proper and complete management plans, including financial and budgeting, are prepared and made public for all of the Service's land assets;

(b) the separating of the Service's scientific and research work, including the Threatened Species Section, from the land management functions of which the former would go to another Agency whilst the latter would remain with National Parks & Wildlife Service; and

(c) National Parks & Wildlife Service be obliged to comply with all planning laws including the Environment Planning & Assessment Act.

Ownership of National Parks

AC 99 That the Association seek that national parks in NSW remain the property of all NSW citizens and not handed to Aboriginal groups.

Private Land

AC 00 That the Association seek recognition of the fact that areas set aside for conservation purposes on private land require continual management, and that farmers require financial assistance to carry out that role.

AC 00 That the Association seek that both the State and Federal Governments for the establishment of an environmental levy similar to the medicare levy, and for an independent body to administer those funds.

97 Oct GC That the Association oppose any attempt by either the NSW or Federal Government to impose any arbitrary measures designed to conserve biodiversity on private agricultural or grazing lands unless the affected landowner has entered a voluntary agreement with the particular Government.

Water Storage

AC 05 That the Association encourage the Department of Environment and Conservation to maintain water storages within parks and reserves to ensure that wildlife does not need to take water from storages on

Water Storage

neighbouring farms.

Wildness Areas

98 Jul GC That the Association strenuously oppose:

- (a) the declaration of further Wilderness areas or National Parks prior to the outcomes of the CRA/RFA process; and
- (b) the nomination and identification of Wilderness over freehold and all leasehold land.

94 Oct GC That the Association seek that a moratorium be placed on the gazettal of current Wilderness nominations and that no further Wilderness nominations be assessed until a more credible assessment process, by an independent body, is conducted under the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act and:

- (a) Wilderness guidelines of the NPWS be reviewed so that they more accurately reflect sustainable conservation of the environment and the socio-economic conservation impacts of creating Wilderness;
- (b) management plans be prepared immediately for all National Parks and proposed Wilderness areas;
- (c) the Wilderness Act, 1987 to be amended to protect existing public and private interests and access rights with particular reference to Sections 6 - Identifications and Section 8 - Management Principles;
- (d) the Association seek from NPWS their agenda for acquiring National Parks within the western area of NSW with the allocated \$32 million; and
- (e) the State Recreational Areas, NAWS and NSW SF responsible for half of the cost of fencing with adjacent landholders.

That the Association seek that:

- (a) Wilderness nominations be rejected if any such nomination contains any land which has been previously nominated for Wilderness and rejected as a Wilderness area; and
- (b) any nominations for a nature reserve and/or state recreation areas be refused if the proposed area has been previously rejected as a nature reserve or a state recreation area; and
- (c) no person or group of persons can nominate a Wilderness area without first lodging with the nomination a minimum fee of ten thousand dollars (\$10 000.00) and that all such nominations automatically lapse if not approved within a six months' period;
- (d) all Wilderness nominations include as part of the nomination an Economic and Social Impact Statement, the cost of the same to be borne by the applicant/s;
- (e) appropriate levels of compensation for "blight" be paid to affected land users whose land value is reduced or business costs significantly increased;
- (f) administrative arrangements of the Wilderness Act 1987, to be altered so that a landowner's consent to a possible declaration of his land as a wilderness area, is sought as soon as the landowner's land is nominated to, or identified by, the National Parks and Wildlife Service as a potential wilderness area;
- (g) the Government provide funds for private conservation agreements, envisaged by the Wilderness Act 1987 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974;
- (h) the Wilderness Act and State Wetland Policy No. 14 be repealed;
- (i) all NSW Wilderness Nominations be frozen immediately and no further extensions to Wilderness areas, Nature Reserves, National Parks or Wetland areas be allowed; and
- (j) all rural producing activities be allowed to continue unhindered within the bounds of current legislation and that the way of life of landholders be upheld.

World Heritage

AC 02 That the Association request that the Government:

- (a) refrain from listing World Heritage areas without agreement from State and local government bodies and landholders who would be affected by such listing; and
- (b) not use powers conferred by the ratification of international conventions under the external affairs powers of the Constitution.

That the Association seek from the Commonwealth and State Parliaments, undertakings of the necessity to properly, adequately and expeditiously compensate existing and future land owners or land users affected by any adverse circumstance arising from World Heritage Nominations or World Heritage Listings.

Economic Reality of Agriculture

Economic Reality of Agriculture

EC Oct 07 That in the context of land use planning policy, the Association promote the economic reality of agriculture today to policy makers.

Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act

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Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to protect agricultural activities.

Feral Animals

1080 aerial baiting

AC 06 That the Association lobby to ensure delivery of 1080 aerial baiting for wild dogs at an application rate of 10Kg/Km (or 40 x 250g baits/Km) by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in national parks.

Compensation for Stock Losses

AC 99 and AC 00 That the Association: (a) pursue legal action for compensation for recorded stock losses that occur as a result of the inability of the NPWS to contain dingoes and wild dogs and feral pigs within their boundaries. (b) oppose the listing of dingoes as an endangered species.

Control of feral animals in National Parks

94 Oct GC That the Association request the National Parks and Wildlife Service instigate more effective means of controlling feral animals in national parks and nature reserves.

Deer Management

06 Mar EC That the Association supports the introduction of legislation to regulate the management of captive deer and ensure the effective control of escaped deer.

98 Apr GC That the Association endorse the proposed Memorandum of Understanding for management and control of deer as proposed by the Non-Indigenous Animals Advisory Council (NIAAC) and the Deer Industry Association for a trial period of two years.

Establishment of a Bounty

AC 00 That the Association seek the establishment of a bounty for the destruction of feral predators to assist with the preservation of native wildlife.

Feral Animals in National Parks

AC 96 That the Association make strong representation to the National Parks & Wildlife Service to increase its activity to control wild dogs and feral animals in National Parks.

Feral Animals on Easement

AC 01 That the Association seek that bodies with easements through land be responsible for control of noxious animals along these easements and their access tracks.

Feral Cats and Foxes

95 Oct GC That the Association promote the eradication of feral cats and foxes to both State and Federal Governments.

Integrated Control of Feral Animals

AC 01 That the Association: (a) lobby the State Government to ensure that the National Parks & Wildlife Service and State Forests prepare wild dog, feral pig and fox management strategies that provide for integrated control which allows for both ground and aerial baiting; and (b) ensure that where wild dog populations are maintained, they are isolated from grazing lands in areas large enough to carry a sustainable population, surrounded by an effectively managed buffer zone on Crown Lands; and (c) that the State Government adequately compensate adjacent land holders for any losses by wild dogs with provision for appropriate State Government funding.

National Vermin Commission

94 Oct GC That the Association request consideration of a National Vermin Commission and that it be incorporated with the Plague Locust Commission to form one single Commission.

Research

EC OCT 07

That the Association lobby both Federal and State Governments to fully fund completion of research projects designed to develop cost effective control programs against feral animals and implement those programs that are successful.

Restrictions on Destruction of Feral Animals

Restrictions on Destruction of Feral Animals

destruction of feral and noxious animals.

Stock Losses

AC 04 That the Association lobby for the NPWS and heritage lands to take responsibility for stock losses from dogs on properties adjacent to National Park boundaries and attributable to feral animals domiciled in the park.

Use of 1080

AC 02 That the Association seek the retention of 1080 for the control of feral animals in NSW.

Fishing

Education and Awareness Program

98 Feb GC That the Association urge NSW Fisheries, in co-operation with other agencies, to:

- (a) commit to an education and awareness program in order to control the over-exploitation of native fish from New South Wales' rivers;
- (b) review the species catch number limit that is appropriate for specific waterways;
- (c) consider closed fishing seasons to be proclaimed for individual species that are appropriate for each species of native fish; and
- (d) research the size limit to ensure that sufficiently mature native fish are available to maintain breeding populations.

Inland Fishing License

AC 99 That the Association press for primary producer to be exempt from the need to obtain an Inland Fishing License for fishing on their own property.

93 Oct GC That the Association urge the State Government to:

- (a) reinstate the use of Fishing Licences; and
- (b) change the laws so that fishermen are required to notify the landholder prior to entering the property.

That the Association seek:

- (a) the reinstatement of Vigilance Committees, that were set up by the former Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to check catch numbers; and
- (b) to have fish catch limits reduced from ten to a number more suited to a specific waterway.

Forestry/Timber

Farm Forestry

AC 00 That the Association oppose the compulsory development of harvest plans for private timber operations.

99 Oct GC That the Association acknowledge the increased importance of farm forestry and lobby government to facilitate its wide adoption while at the same time ensuring that harvesting rights are guaranteed.

93 Oct GC That the Association seek:

- (a) to have paramount legislative recognition of the right of owners/growers of cultivated timber and other crops to harvest or otherwise utilise those crops unhindered by the need to obtain consents or other authorities other than ones relating to prudential management practices (if applicable); and
- (b) to have such legislative protection double entrenched so as to encourage and promote long term investment and planning in agriculture.

95 Feb GC That the Association seek the removal of government barriers to all aspects of marketing of products from farm forestry operations.

AC 95 That the Association seek to ensure that trees grown on farms for forestry purposes remain under the control of the landowner and not be subject to Government regulation on harvesting or other criteria.

Firewood

96 Oct GC That the Association request the Government to allow occupiers of State lease-holdings first opportunity to harvest firewood off their respective leases.

Land for Commercial Forestry

96 Oct GC That the Association lobby Government to:

- (a) remove restrictions that prevent State Forests and landowners from purchasing uncleared or degraded land for commercial forestry; and

Land for Commercial Forestry

(b) ensure that sufficient economic and environmental incentives exist for such land to be chosen for commercial pine and eucalyptus plantations in preference to prime, cleared agricultural land.

Rate Relief for Re-forestation

AC 95 That the Association approach the State and Federal Governments to make financial assistance available to Local Councils to offset rates for those farmers who are prepared to re-forest their properties for non-commercial purposes.

Timber Royalties

AC 00 That the Association seek legislation to ensure that State Forests remit a portion of the royalty on mill logs to those local government authorities that maintain the shire roads over which the logs are transported.

Funding for Environmental Rehabilitation

Funding for Environmental Rehabilitation

That the Association seek:

- (a) community borne funding for rectification of problems affecting the environment, arising from practices previously accepted by the community; and
- (b) funding by all beneficiaries for future environmental projects.

Funding for Natural Resource Purposes

Funding for Natural Resource Purposes

AC 05 That the Association establish a system to audit the vast amounts of government funds often promised at election times for specific natural resource purposes to make sure that these funds as promised are actually utilized for those specific purposes and do not roll over into the next round of promises.

Greenhouse

Carbon Credits

07 Mar EC That the Association investigate the establishment of a market for carbon offsets and lobby the State & Federal Governments to:

a) investigate changes to carbon accounting rules such that:

- additional carbon stored through cropping, grazing and vegetation management practises can be traded as a carbon credit;
- carbon losses caused by drought and seasonal variation are excluded when calculating credits; and
- carbon credits from carbon stored on farm land remain the property of farmers and not nationalised.

b) grant carbon credits to farmers who have already achieved and exceeded carbon benchmarks (so those who have already contributed are not penalised)

c) retrospectively provide carbon credits to farmers who have retained vegetation on their land, regardless of the age of that vegetation and whether it is naturally regenerated or planted.

07 Mar EC That the Association have a credible, high profile consultant prepare a discussion paper/submission on the generation and sequestration of carbon emissions contributed by the agriculture sector with a view to presenting the submission to the Federal Government.

05 AC That the Association investigate the implications of a viable carbon credits trading scheme for agriculture.

AC 00 That the Association seek to change the issue of carbon credits from growing of forests to the locking up of carbon's in the future to help the environment.

AC 98 That the Association vigorously pursue the interests of farmers concerning carbon sequestration and trading of carbon credits and that the Conservation & Resource Management Committee report to members on the benefits and concerns arising for Australian agriculture.

Challenges Presented by Climate Change

07 Mar EC That the Association acknowledge the challenges presented by climate change and lobby the State & Federal Governments to:

- a) apply the responsibility for addressing these challenges equitably across all sectors of the community and across all industries;
- b) recognise and reward the contribution agriculture makes and has already made to reducing Australia's greenhouse emissions;
- c) establish true economic incentives to farmers for establishing carbon sinks that recognise the long term cyclical nature of agriculture;
- d) investigate the potential of soil and other agricultural carbon sinks;
- e) investigate programs and policies that increase the capacity for regional communities to adapt to climate change, including increased flexibility in patterns of land use and funding for development of new farm

Challenges Presented by Climate Change

technologies;

f) support technological advances that reduce atmospheric carbon;

g) upgrade public fire mitigation so as to reduce net carbon emission from wildfire; and

h) include farm sector representatives in all current and future advisory processes and high level industry panels on climate change.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

AC 01 That the Association seek an urgent revision by a credible research organisation of the volume of net emissions of green house gases by agricultural producers in Australia in comparison with non-agricultural emitters.

Kyoto Protocol

00 Oct GC That the Association seek that Australia refuse to ratify the Kyoto Protocol unless:

(a) the protocol has been ratified by all our major trading competitors; and

(b) a detailed study on the impact of ratification on agriculture has been carried out, and it demonstrates that the impact of proposed abatement measures are born equally by all Australians."

00 Oct GC That the Association seek that any domestic carbon trading scheme provides competitive advantages to agriculture.

Land Boards

Land Boards

AC 99 That the Association seek an amendment to Section 3 Schedule 2 of the Crown Lands Act to remove the right of a party to legal representation in proceedings before a local Land Board.

Land Classification

Land Classification

That the Association request the Department of Agriculture to provide:

(a) a positive definition of the minimum requirements of prime crop and pasture land that:

(i) takes into account the value to the economy of prime pasture as well as prime cropping land; and

(ii) can be defended in a court of law and understood by persons not involved in land classification; and

(b) a reappraisal of the Department's definitions of agricultural suitability Classes I-V with recognition and correction of:

(i) the grey areas of definition between Classes; and

(ii) the very wide range of pasture land included in Class IV, having too wide a range of economic productivity and capital value.

Landuse Planning

Burning Off Policy

97 Oct GC That the Association vigorously oppose any legislation attempting to curtail or eliminate the long established farming practice of burning off.

Buyer Beware Policy

96 Feb GC That the Association develop, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, a 'buyer beware' policy and statement that can be used by local government across the state to make prospective buyers of property in semi-urban rural areas aware of the impact of farming operations and the social amenity issues associated with these operations.

Common Good Environmental Services Tax

AC 02 That the Association lobby for a tax or levy to be imposed upon the whole community, to provide funds for common good environmental services provided by farmers, so that their right to farm and sustainability is protected.

Impact Statement

AC 96 That the Association request that all Government policy changes which redirect primary resources (eg. water, timber, mining, land) for other use, are to carry with those changes a socioeconomic impact statement and a funded community rehabilitation package.

Land Resumption

97 Feb GC That the Association seek adoption of the following conditions where land is resumed by a mining company, government or semi-government body:

Land Resumption

- (a) the landholder should have the right to require the body concerned to resume the whole property if any long-term economic disadvantage can be shown by partial resumption;
- (b) the resumption should be at full market value and include allowance to cover:
 - (i) disturbance
 - (ii) all financial costs involved in the resumption including capital gains tax
 - (iii) all financial costs involved in purchasing a property of similar value, eg. mortgage, transfers and stamp duty
 - (iv) loss of income; and
- (c) the landholder should have the right to lease back the property if it is not to be developed immediately.

Landuse Planning

EC Mar 09 That the NSW Farmers Association take a strong position on a need for the Association to become involved at the highest level on matters pertaining to planning as a matter of urgency

EC Mar 09 That the Association lobby the NSW State Government to have a representative on the Planning Assessment Commission and the new joint Regional Planning Panels.

EC Mar 09 That the 07 March EC resolution be amended to read:

That the Association requires in order to minimize rural/urban interface land use conflicts from future rural/residential and commercial/industrial subdivisions proposed for agricultural lands should:

- a) Be near urban centres;
- b) Rural/residential land use be commensurate with being residential use;
- c) Where possible be located on the lower quality lands;
- d) Have a preference for clustered development;
- e) Not significant impact upon existing natural resources; and
- f) Not significant impact upon existing agricultural industries.

EC Oct 07 That the Association make urgent representations to the Department of Planning to properly ground-truth soils before declaring them "soils of regional significance".

07 Mar EC That the Association support:

- a) the simplification of land use planning to reduce duplicity, cost and time delays;
- b) land use planning decisions being made at a local level using local data and consultation;
- c) the usage of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms prior to any court proceedings for land use conflict issues;
- d) the retention of dwelling entitlements in perpetuity;
- e) the erection of workers dwellings on productive agricultural land;
- f) the removal of clauses within Local Environmental Plans which impose or facilitate native vegetation provisions in excess of the Native Vegetation Act; and
- g) the implementation of 5 year reviews of all rural Local Environment Plans.

07 Mar EC That the Association believe, in order to minimise future rural/urban interface land use conflict, rural/residential subdivision should;

- a) be near existing urban centres;
- b) be of a size commensurable with being residential land;
- c) be located on lower quality land;
- d) have a preference for clustered development; and
- e) not unduly impact upon existing natural resources.

07 Mar EC That the Association oppose the imposition of environmentally sensitive land use corridors on private land.

AC 06 That the Association lobby Government to ensure that land use planning decisions are based on genuine extensive consultation along with independent objective information such that the rights and needs of affected farmers and rural communities are maintained and protected.

AC 05 That the Association lobby the Government to ensure that the NSW planning reforms effectively address the needs of rural industry and rural communities, specifically so as to ensure that

- (a) existing land use rights of farmers are protected and compensation is provided for any regulatory restrictions on the traditional uses of rural land in NSW, including threatened species and native vegetation legislation;
- (b) land subdivisions properly address impacts on water resources and rights to farm;
- (c) regional strategies and local environment plans are developed with full community consultation and the results of the consultation are in fact reflected in the final plan; and
- (d) any restrictions on rural land use resulting from regional strategies, local environmental plans and environmental legislation are preceded by appropriate regulatory impact statements.

06 Mar EC That the Association oppose the extended powers of the Minister for Planning through the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2006 to remove the planning powers of a council unless a proper independent evaluation of the councils' performance has been undertaken.

Protection and Preservation of Rural Activities

AC 94 That the Association call upon the Minister for Local Government to implement an additional Clause to all

Protection and Preservation of Rural Activities

Section 149 Certificates issued by Councils, similar to that operating in the Kyogle and Wollondilly Shire for the protection and preservation of rural activities.

Public Utilities

97 Feb GC That the Association seek to ensure public utilities are placed on public land as far as practicable.

Reverse Onus of Proof

AC 05 That the Association investigate options for implementing a reverse onus of proof in relation to objections made by owners of concessional allotments, thus protecting neighbouring farmers from claims against farming activities.

Right to Farm Legislation

97 Feb GC That the Association request that the NSW Government enact "Right to Farm" legislation which sets aside common law action for nuisance in respect of non-designated agricultural activities.

Trespass

97 Feb GC That the Association seek that:

- (a) the Government examine trespass laws following the High Court decision in *Hackshaw v Shaw* to determine whether statutory alterations are required to redress any undesirable extension of trespassers' rights;
- (b) the NSW Government should enact legislation to exclude any right of a person to sue a property owner for damages arising from an injury incurred while unlawfully on a property or premises, where that person is aware or should have been aware that entry was unlawful; and
- (c) a set of operating guidelines be prepared for Government agencies and others having statutory rights of entry to private lands and attempt to have them adopted by those agencies.

Local Government

Land Valuation

AC 00 That the Association seek that the Valuer General ensure that pastoral and agricultural lands are not valued at the same value as horticultural lands.

00 Feb GC That Association seeks that when the NSW Government Valuer General's Office revises Land Valuations it takes into account the severe devaluation of unimproved land that has occurred since the imposition of the Native Vegetation Conservation Act.

That the Association seek an amendment to the Valuation of Land Act to provide an appeals mechanism to enable obvious inconsistencies in valuations within districts to be corrected where lands of similar classification which are adjoining or reasonably adjacent have a valuation difference of more than 10 per cent.

AC 07 That the Association:

- a) inform the State Government that the current system of contract assessment of rateable land values is unsatisfactory;
- b) seek that the Valuer General look at ways to streamline and simplify appeals for Valuer General land valuations; and
- c) seek the State Government implement an equitable rating system following the separation of land and irrigation water for valuation purposes.

99 Feb GC That the Association vigorously lobby the Valuer General's Department to have water licence values exempted from consideration when valuing rural properties.

Local Government

00 Feb GC That the Association seek a formula for the rating of farms, which takes into account the disadvantage they suffer in the provision of local government services.

That the Association seek autonomy for local government in relation to local matters. In the case of revenue raising and expenditure practices:

- (a) the State Government should rigorously pursue the adoption of user pays in Local Government. The Government should provide legislation which ensures that the move to user pays is revenue neutral (ie. it must be a saving to ratepayers);
- (b) there should be a just and equitable share of Commonwealth government revenue equal to 3 per cent of income tax receipts;
- (c) local government administration should concentrate on the provision of traditional services such as local roads, construction and maintenance;
- (d) Land Boards must notify Local Government when permission is given to fence across a road;
- (e) penalty rates and holiday loadings should be abolished and a return made to a 40 hour week;
- (f) both state and federal governments must firmly establish priorities for local government funding so that local governments can plan for longer term commitments in implementing programmes that are primarily state and

Local Government

federal government initiatives;

(g) that the base charge concept be adopted on the basis that the charge be not less than 30 percent and that the government investigate the advisability of extending the base charge concept to include commercial and mining ratepayers;

(h) there should be a policy of pegging local government rate increases;

(i) the State Government should request all local government councils to forward with each rate notice details of income and expenditure, and assets and liabilities for the previous year, together with the budget for the year for which the rates are levied;

(j) Councils should be given the capability to employ all staff on a contract basis and employ all staff on merit;

(k) the Association support the proposal by the Minister for Local Government that "equal value first-past-the-post" voting be adopted for Local Government elections;

(l) the Local Government Act be amended to provide that anyone being a ratepayer to a Council be automatically enrolled on the electoral roll for that Council;

(m) oppose any forced amalgamations of Shire Councils;

(n) the amount of Commonwealth and State taxation monies to be returned to local government as grant monies should be increased;

(o) local government accounting should be standardised and the various functions of councils should be presented preferably on a per capita basis for easy comparison;

(p) local government should be obliged, on the request of interested parties, to supply copies of their estimates for the ensuing year;

(q) the rating of a small area of land in one Shire which adjoins a principal area of land in an adjoining Shire should be dealt with on an ad valorem basis, where there is common ownership of both areas of land.

AC 07 That the Association:

a) request the State Government implement an inquiry into a fairer local government rating system;

b) seek that the base charge provides 70% of general rate income;

c) support the Local Government and Shires Association in seeking a designated share of GST.

AC 03 That the Association demands that the NSW Government cease the current initiatives in relation to the amalgamation of shires until the Government:

(a) reveals its vision for the future of local governments in rural communities;

(b) commits to a process that no amalgamation occurs without the majority support of the communities affected;

(c) undertakes a full public cost benefit analysis on the local communities of changing shire boundaries.

Local Government Rates on State Forests

AC 95 That the Association seek that State Forests pay Local Government rates on areas of forests that are logged or planned to be logged.

Rate Reimbursement

98 Oct GC That the Association push for the State Government to fully reimburse Councils that offer a reduction in Local Government rates for landholders who maintain or set aside environmentally sensitive areas.

Shire Rates in Drought Declared Areas

95 Oct GC That the Association seek that the payment of local government rates in drought declared areas be deferred without accruing interest.

Mining

Mining

AC 08 That the Association lobby the NSW State Government to compel all methane and other gases released during coal mining to be captured for energy production.

AC 08 That the Association urgently lobby the NSW State Government to review the provisions of the Coal Compensation Act 1989, the Mines Subsidence Compensation Act 1961 and the Mining Act 1992 to include assessments of any associated off-site impacts.

AC 08 That the Association pursue legal advice to clarify that land enhanced by conservation earthworks or environmental conservation is an "improvement" under the Mining Act and therefore protected from mining or exploration.

06 Oct EC That our Association further investigate and lobby for coal mining practices to be upgraded to make the industry compatible with long term sustainable agricultural production, and the rural communities dependent on that production.

AC 08 That the Association support and vigorously lobby the State and Federal Governments to commission a fully independent, catchment wide study of the underground and surface water flows of the Liverpool Plains prior to any further exploration or mining taking place.

Mining

- a) legislate for mining companies to only use percussion rigs in areas known to have aquifers for the purpose of exploration, and
- b) legislate that all core sample information be available for public access as soon as it comes to hand.

AC 08 That the Association pursue, through the AFFF, the possibility of mounting a court challenge opposing provisions under Part 3a of the EP&A Act, which may give mining precedence over farmland.

06 Oct EC That the Association oppose further exploration licences for an expansion of coal mining in Liverpool Plains and Hunter Valley until government and the applicants:

- a) Implement a program to address the local and broadscale negative impacts of existing coal mines on the environment, water resources, and agricultural systems;
- b) Conduct detailed independent studies to determine the risk of land subsidence, fracturing and contamination of aquifers, and other detrimental impacts to surface and ground water systems of any proposed new mining practices; and
- c) Undertake to not proceed with any new mines unless the technology and mining techniques employed will extract coal without causing any subsidence and with negligible practical risk to regional ground and surface water systems.

AC 06 That the Association demand:

- a) full and independent hydrological and geological studies of the Namoi Catchment to determine the impacts of coal mining on future and existing agricultural production;
- b) all scientific studies including the environmental assessment conducted by Coal Mines Australia be "peer-reviewed"
- c) the community have input into the 'terms of reference' of the environmental assessment conducted by Coal Mines Australia.

EC Mar 09 That the guidelines and template for land access agreements be released to Members immediately.

06 Oct EC

That the Association:

- a) oppose further exploration, development and expansion of mining in NSW until the anomalies of existing legislation are resolved (ref. Native Vegetation Act, Endangered Species Act versus Mining Act); and
 - b) seek that where an exploration allows an impact on areas beyond the initial mapped area, either superficially or subsurface that the environmental impact study of the proposed exploration be required to investigate this.
- That the Association seek amendments to the Mining (Access to Lands) Amendment Act 1989 so that:
- (a) any Rural Land Access Agreement between a landholder and an explorer shall be in writing.
 - (b) any bond monies lodged by an explorer against the possibility of damage shall be continuously under review to ensure that such monies shall always be sufficient and adequate.
 - (c) there shall be a right of appeal from the Warden's Court to the District Court.

07 Mar EC That the Association lobby the Department of Environment and Conservation and other relevant government departments to establish a "good neighbour" policy for the mining industry, which will include consideration of the following issues:

- (a) double standards with Native vegetation legislation
- (b) independent monitoring dust/noise/water
- (c) land values and land restoration
- (d) impact on water supplies
- (e) buffer zones
- (f) blasting times
- (g) OH& S concerns/invasion of privacy and lack of consideration to landholder/landowner schedules.

National Emissions Trading Scheme

National Emissions Trading Scheme

EC Oct 07 That the Association request NFF to develop a position statement on the Australian Emissions Trading Scheme.

Native Vegetation

Amendment to Environmental Legislation

AC 98 That the Association continue to press for an amendment to all environmental legislation in NSW to remove the right of third parties to instigate prosecutions for breaches of the Acts.

Catchment Action Plans and Local Environment Plans

05 Oct EC That the Association oppose any linkages between Catchment Action Plans and Local Environment Plans that compulsorily impose Catchment Action Plans on local government.

Commitment to Agricultural Sector

95 Oct GC That the Association require any NSW State Premier to appoint Ministers to all rural/natural resource management portfolios who are prepared to show a commitment to the agricultural sector by developing land, vegetation and water management policies which: (a) adopt the principles of co-operation and encouragement; (b) will not create hostility between farmers and Department staff who administer the Government's will; and (c) are developed with the ongoing involvement of the farming community.

Land Clearing

AC 05 That the Association (a) draw attention to the double standard for the clearing of urban land to extend metropolitan areas; (b) support the concept of self-assessment for continuing use clearing; and (c) lobby the State Government to seek that exemptions or simple self assessment provisions are available to facilitate management of invasive species under the Native Vegetation Act 2003.

Native Vegetation Act 2003

AC 06 That the Association continue to lobby the Government to:

- (a) prevent local government overriding the native vegetation legislation;
- (b) resolve the resulting jurisdictional conflict and red tape; and
- (c) oppose the Department of Lands placing covenants on vegetation when leased land is converted to freehold.

AC 06 That the Association continue to lobby the Government to:

- (a) urgently address the problems documented by the Association in regard to the Native Vegetation Act 2003;
- (b) make special and more equitable provisions for the under-developed and later-developing parts of the state; and in particular, by publicly supporting the Regional Community Survival Group at Nyngan in regards to the current Native Vegetation Regulations and their effect on environmental health, productivity and land use in NSW; and
- (c) develop with the Association a code of conduct for the compliance process.

Native Vegetation Management Compensation for Landholders

99 Dec GC That the Association promote the establishment of a Private Conservation Trust in NSW that will, through a variety of means, provide incentives to farmers to help offset production losses sustained through the conservation of native vegetation.

AC 98 That the Association seek that where clearing is prohibited as a result of native vegetation legislation and threatened species legislation, the State Government either purchase the land at current commercial value if the landholder chooses to sell or provide compensation:

- (a) for loss of production;
- (b) for loss of land value;
- (c) by annual payments where land use is constrained; and
- (d) with a specified time limit for payment.

Native Vegetation Management Legislation

AC 08 That the Association urgently make it plain to the Government that amendment of the Native Vegetation legislation to require registration of Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) on title would be a breach of faith and is contrary to the position negotiated in 2005, which is that, on transfer of land, PVPs are to be notified via Section 149 certificates.

AC 08 That the Association lobby the NSW Government to amend procedures such that DECC do not retain copies of Private Native Forestry Property Vegetation Plans. The original copy of each PVP should be held by the forest owner and must be made available for DECC staff to view during property visits.

07 Mar EC That the Association lobby the National Farmers' Federation to call on the Federal Government to: (a) use funding criteria under the Inter Governmental Agreement process to drive reforms to State environmental legislation that enable farmers to deliver environmental objectives in a more flexible and cost effective way; and conduct a review of state legislation to identify aspects that limit or that prevent regional communities efficiently delivering environmental outcomes.

Permissive Occupancies and Road Permits

Permissive Occupancies and Road Permits

AC 00 That the Association seek for the total rent paid on a road lease to be deleted in situations where at least 50% of the reserve is fenced off for the purpose of regeneration.

That the Association seek that the Department of Land and Water Conservation charge rental on the total value of all permissive occupancies and road permits held by the same lessor, (as is done by Local Government for rate purposes) instead of the present practice of charging a minimum annual rent on every small parcel.

Pest Animals

Commercial Harvesting of Kangaroos

AC 02 That the Association seek to introduce commercial kangaroo harvesting in the eastern zones of NSW.

AC 08 That the Association lobby State Government to revoke Kangaroo Trappers Licences and Game Meat Harvesting Certificates of persons convicted of trespassing on private land.

Wild Dogs

AC 08 That the Association seeks Government funding for the replacement and maintenance of wild dog fencing on private lands adjoining lands managed by Rural Lands Protection Boards and NSW Forests.

AC 08 That the Association lobby the Government to co-ordinate and provide additional funding to RLPBs and National Parks to enable control of feral dogs in problem areas.

AC 08 That the Association endorses the local NSW Farmers' Association Branch Chair or their Branch nominee, to become a co-signatory for all Wild Dog Management Plans and contracts that are a requirement of the Rural Lands Protection Act (1998).

AC 08 That the Association lobby to ensure that the procedures which govern aerial wild dog baiting are not applied in a manner which unreasonably restrict the implementation of effective wild dog control programs.

Pest Species

Damage Caused by Lerps

AC 95 That the Association seek the continued funding for research into dieback in eucalyptus, especially into the damage caused by Lerps.

European Carp

94 Oct GC That the Association: (a) seek the control of European Carp in inland waterways with particular reference to biological control using the Spring Viraemia virus; (b) seek that Carp be recognised as vermin; and (c) support and promote the concept of commercial harvesting of Carp.

AC 95 That the Association: (a) press for additional and continuing research into the eradication of European carp from NSW waterways; and (b) call on the both State and Commonwealth Governments to encourage the harvesting of European carp as an interim management tool to reduce degradation of rivers and wetlands while methods for carp eradication are being determined.

Removal of Penalties on Control of Pest Species

94 Oct GC That the Association: (a) seek the removal of penalties imposed on those trying to control pest species of birds; and (b) adopt a policy of supporting the export of pest species of birds with the exception of birds scheduled as either an 'endangered' or 'threatened' species.

Wedge-tailed Eagles

04 Feb EC That In accordance with the noted desire of the Association that proper scientific research should be undertaken over a wide range of environmental issues that effect farmers and their livelihoods, the Association seeks contemporary and competent research in the behaviour and diet of Wedge-tailed Eagles and their effect on livestock, in particular attacks on lambs, kids and other young livestock.

Property Rights

Landuse Planning

01 Oct EC That the Association request:

- (a) the NSW Government to pay adequate compensation to farmers and landholders whose properties are affected by SEPP No.14 Coastal Wetlands and similar restraint on land use;
- (b) compensation for landholders when restrictions are imposed on agricultural land which result in a total or substantial loss in agricultural production or use; and
- (c) the government to carry out an economic impact assessment and consult with landholders prior to any such restrictions being imposed.

02 Feb EC That the Association:

- (a) oppose any arbitrary Government restrictions on:
 - (i) land use;
 - (ii) land transfers; and
 - (iii) minimum subdivision areas;
- (b) seek that market forces should be the primary determinant of land use patterns with the proviso that hobby farmers or developers should pay the full costs of services provided for their benefit.

Leasehold Land

Leasehold Land

(a) seek continuation of integrity of ownership of privately held leasehold land and the maintenance of accrued and existing rights under the package of Crown Lands legislation administering leasehold land in the Central and Eastern division.

(b) oppose any proposed Crown Lands legislation which increases market rentals and interest payments for purchasers and excludes areas from conversion to freehold tenure.

(c) seek automatic conversion of restricted freehold land to unrestricted freehold title at no cost to the landholder.

(d) request the NSW Government to simplify and reduce the cost of converting leasehold title to unrestricted freehold.

AC 07 That the Association:

a) oppose exorbitant increases on Crown Land grazing permits levied by the Department of Lands;

b) seek an extension on the deadline for applications to purchase Crown Roads under the concession arrangements previously agreed;

c) seek that the purchase price reflect the economic return from primary production; and

d) seek an extension to convert Crown leases, and oppose the newly introduced right or need for national parks to inspect these properties prior to conversion.

Property Rights of Land Holders

AC 08 That the Association:

a) strongly oppose New South Wales Government intentions for the Government, and Councils to compulsorily resume privately held land for other than essential services such as roads, rail lines and telecommunications etc.

b) oppose the blanket refusal of some councils to allow the conversion of reserve roads to private ownership.

AC 04 That the Association only supports the introduction of planning instruments:

(a) which maintain a landholder's existing right to change agricultural enterprises, or add relevant infrastructure, without the need for a consent process, and

(b) if these rights are limited by the state, that full compensation is paid by the State.

AC 01 That the Association seek commitment from the Federal and State Governments for fully secure compensatable land and water property rights.

AC 02 That the Association seek:

(a) suitable Federal and State Government legislation to provide fully secure and compensatable land and water property rights; and

(b) support and acknowledge our present "existing and continuing use right" law for the right to use the air, the soil, the water and the vegetation which is guaranteed by the Crown to all purchasers of property.

00 Feb GC That the Association demand that rural titleholders be treated with the same equity and fairness as other Australians where rights of titleholders are eroded or removed.

02 Feb EC That the CRM Committee, along with the Executive Council, formulate a strategy to handle the push to modify the Mining Act.

That the Association seek to maintain the integrity of freehold system of land tenure without erosion or denial of any rights which such title implies (without just and adequate compensation).

AC 02 That the Association support the NFF in seeking amendments by the Federal Government to the "EPBC Act" to ensure secure property rights for landholders.

That the Association oppose any attempt by the Government to:

(a) impose compulsory environmental management land use constraints without the payment of proper compensation to landholders whose rights would otherwise thereby be denied;

(b) within the general context of overall land and environmental planning, introduce undue compulsion and creeping bureaucratic infringement on the rights of a landholder; and

(c) compulsorily acquire privately held productive rural land.

01 Oct EC With the establishment of property rights, owners of farmland accept the following as an initial draft of the duty of care subject to obtaining legal advice:

(a) any action taken on the land should not result in harm to another person or the property of another person, provided always that such harm is foreseeable, able to be predicted on the basis of current knowledge, occurs within reasonable proximity, and it is reasonable for the owner to take action to avoid such harm;

(b) the land should be managed in a manner that as far as practicable ensures the sustained productive health of the land;

(c) action should be taken by owners of farm land to avoid causing unnecessary noise or air pollution, but only to the extent that it is reasonable to do so given current agricultural practices;

(d) the owner of farm land is not required to take action, or be restricted by legislation or regulations initiated to bring about community environmental benefits that impose a cost on the owner or limits the ability of the owner to sustainably utilise the land, unless the owner first receives just compensation.

Proposed Standard LEP

Proposed Standard LEP

05 Oct EC That the Association oppose the use of the Local Environment Plan (LEP) planning instrument to

Proposed Standard LEP

standardise Local Government planning throughout the State because it distances land use planning decision making from the communities which they affect, and makes farmers vulnerable to future arbitrary land use planning decisions.

05 Oct EC That the Association, in the expectation that implementation of the proposed Standard LEP is unavoidable, seek the following amendments:

- a) Changes to the LEP cannot be made without consultation;
- b) Section 54 3(b) of the Standard LEP includes 'economic' grounds;
- c) Prospective decisions by consent authorities on the zoning of agriculture/intensive agriculture/rural residential or rural small holdings land are:
 - i) the subject of extensive and genuine consultations with the affected stakeholders at each stage of the decision making process which includes independent and objective analysis of key agricultural and socioeconomic factors; and
 - ii) based on consideration of objective productive standards that include soil type, terrain, size, location, water access/availability and current and prospective economic returns;
- d) Farmers affected by zoning decisions have the right of appeal firstly through a binding alternate dispute resolution process with a right for further appeal through the Land and Environment Court;
- e) Agricultural activity is protected from the unreasonable impact of residential developments;
- f) The implementation of the consent authority of effective measures to protect agriculture activity from residential interference requires –
 - i) relevant developments to be accompanied by a study of the prospective socio-economic impacts on agricultural activity which is publicly available during the consultation process;
 - ii) neighbouring development to establish buffer zones on the developer's land to minimize future land use conflict with bordering agricultural enterprises and
 - iii) mandatory Section 149 Certificate that
 - warns prospective buyers of the potential loss of amenity from agricultural activity
 - notes that the Standard Local Environment Plan requires the consent authority to protect and maintain land for agriculture
 - explains to prospective purchasers the purposes of buffer zones as well as the advantages of maintaining the buffer into the future.
- g) The LEP legal instrument be amended in Section 10 (i.) in regard to the objectives for development in zones for 'rural residential' to include the additional objective of protecting agricultural commerce conducted in accordance with zoning; and (ii) in regard to the objectives for development in zones for 'agriculture', the deletion of the objective of maintaining 'scenic amenity and the landscape quality of the area', and 'scenic qualities'
- h) The rural zoning allows reasonable flexibility for changes in the type of agricultural activity conducted on the zoned land without the need for development applications to consent authorities.

Protected Lands

Protected Lands

That the Association seek:

- (a) that where applicable, the issue of permits for the clearing of protected lands, other than in the Western Division, should be in the hands of the inspecting Department of Land and Water Conservation officer, in consultation with the local Landcare group;
- (b) security for the harvesting and use of private timber resources by the issue of long-term authorities by the Director of Land and Water Conservation to landholders to enable them to carry out the harvesting of timber, clearing of vegetation and associated works on protected lands in accordance with sound management principles;
- (c) acquisition by the Government under the 'Just Terms' legislation where use of any private land is totally restricted by the environmentally sensitive lands provisions;
- (d) compensation to the landholder based upon the financial or economic disadvantage brought about by the application of the protected lands policy where a landholder proves financial or economic disadvantage because of the consequences of the mapping of protected lands;
- (e) amendment of section 21B(6) of the Soil Conservation Act by the removal of sub-sections (b) to (f) inclusive, viz:
 - (i) land containing rare or endangered fauna or flora;
 - (ii) land containing sites of archaeological or historical interest;
 - (iii) land containing bird breeding grounds;
 - (iv) wetlands; and
 - (v) areas of scenic beauty;
- (f) the mandatory offer of a free consultation as soon as possible to all landholders affected by the mapping of protected lands, such consultation to include:
 - (i) a notification in writing to each affected landholder together with a detailed map of the affected area; and
 - (ii) an on-site discussion between the landholder and the appropriate inspecting officer to canvass all aspects of the proposal; and
- (g) the official release as early as possible after public consultation of maps of protected lands, thus enabling the Department to issue long-term authorities quickly to landholders to enable them to carry out the harvesting of

Protected Lands

timber, clearing of vegetation and associated works on protected lands in accordance with sound management principles.

Railway line verges

Railway Line Verges

AC 03 That the Association demand that the State Rail Authority of NSW actively manage all verges on all railway lines throughout NSW in relation to noxious weeds, pest control and fire hazard control.

Reference Groups for LEPs

Reference Groups for LEPs

EC Oct 07 That the Association approach relevant Ministers and industry associations to require councils to form reference groups for the development of draft LEPs and ensuring that representatives from rural industries are included in these reference groups.

EC Oct 07 The Association has extreme concern about the lack of farmer participation in the development of new LEPs in NSW. That we strongly encourage our members to lobby their local government representatives to form reference groups to allow farmers and other bodies to participate in the formulation of draft LEPs for the LGAs.

Rezoning of land use

Rezoning of Land Use

AC 06 That the Association:

- (a) lobby the State government for all noncomplying landholders to be notified in a similar manner to development applications, of any proposed rezoning of land use by local or state governments; and
- (b) that landholders have the right of appeal against any such rezoning in the Land and Environment Court.

Rural Impact Statements

Rural Impact Statements

06 Mar EC That the Association press for rural impact statements used by Cabinet, to become publicly available documents, prior to the introduction of any new bills.

AC 05 That the Association take all steps necessary, including seeking the appropriate amendment of the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989 No 146, to ensure that the imposition of any regulatory or legislative restriction on existing and prospective uses of rural land in New South Wales must be preceded by:

a) That rural impact statements be applied in a public and transparent way to all proposed legislative and regulatory changes affecting rural NSW.

and

b) Adequate and transparent public consultation by government and/or its regulatory agencies, including consultation with the NSW Farmers' Association concerning relevant Terms of Reference, to ensure and clearly demonstrate that all of the concerns of relevant stakeholders have been seen to be recognised and addressed in the relevant Statement.

and further that:

- 1) Prior to the release of any completed Statement neither government nor any government agency or any other stakeholder entity shall issue any report concerning any restriction of land use under consideration that may prejudice the impartial evaluation of the completed Statement;
- 2) There shall be no lawful justification for any part of the deliberations concerning the preparation of any Statement or any part of any submission tendered in the preparation of any Statement being withheld from public disclosure either during the preparation or following the issue of any such Statement.

Salinity

Dryland Salinity

AC 01 That the Association encourage the management of salinity by advocating:

- (a) research into the breeding of saline tolerant pastures and cropping species; and
- (b) the identification of viable farm forestry opportunities and methods in medium/low rainfall areas.

00 Feb GC That the Association endorses the following principles for framing policy responses to the issue of dryland salinity:

(a) Dryland salinity is a problem that has an impact on the entire community, and any costs associated with measures to manage or control salinity must be borne equitably by the entire community.

(b) A strategic approach must be taken to dryland salinity, with consideration given to the long-term costs and benefits of salinity amelioration, and recognition that in some situations remediation or management may not be

Dryland Salinity

economically justifiable.

(c) Given spatial and temporal considerations, any necessary changes to landuse should preferably occur with an emphasis on the use of incentives, rather than regulation.

(d) The adoption of simplistic, broadscale solutions to dryland salinity is unlikely to be successful, and successful management approaches will vary on a valley-by valley and catchment-by catchment basis.

(e) A key tool to assist communities and individuals in managing or controlling dryland salinity is the provision of comprehensive information.

00 Feb GC That the Association acknowledges that dryland salinity is an important issue warranting continuing action by the Association and its members to protect the long-term interests of both members and the wider community.

00 Feb GC That the Association seeks that both State and Commonwealth Governments initiate a significant co-ordinated program to address the problem of dryland salinity.

Soil

Funding Research into Salinity and Acid Soils

98 Feb GC That the Association request the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation to fund further grants for research into:

(a) erosion control in saline areas;

(b) a development programme relating to reclamation of degraded lands;

(c) the extent of salinity in dryland cropping areas; and

(d) the problem of acid soils.

02 May EC That the Association support action to pursue options for external funding to continue the role of Conservation Project Manager.

Interest Rates for Soil and Water Conservation

AC 94 That the Association seek that the interest rate on old and new loans for soil and water conservation be reduced to a maximum of 3%, and nil for particular whole valley initiatives.

Lime/Gypsum Program

02 May EC That the Association request the State and Federal Governments to include lime and gypsum application in their land degradation programmes with low interest loans or 150% tax deductibility, instead of grants.

AC 94 That the Association seek that the State and Federal Governments recognise soil acidification as a serious landcare problem and:

(a) open up lime deposits closer to farming areas therefore lowering the cost of lime by reduced freight distance; and

(b) investigate the potential for further lime crushing plants.

Research into Salinity and Acid Soils

98 Feb GC That the Association:

(a) endorse the approach taken by Hastings Council for the management of Acid Sulfate Soils; and

(b) until such time as a draft document has been made available for review, reserve judgement on a possible SEPP for Acid Sulfate Soils.

Soil Testing Facilities

02 Oct EC That the Association request the NSW Department of Agriculture to re-introduce soil testing facilities for producers on a fee for service basis so that proportionate cost recovery occurs commensurate with commercial benefits to the producer.

Sound science in regulatory decisions

Sound Science in Regulatory Decisions

AC 03 That the Association in conjunction with Research & Development Boards continues to evaluate the scientific validity of studies and reports used as a basis for developing environmental legislation, or access the appropriate expertise to do so.

AC 03 That the Association seek that all Government regulatory programs, especially the Living Murray Plan, be based on a sound scientific and practical (in the field) basis, or other factual evidence and where they have a potential adverse impact on farmers businesses, those programs must balance the community benefits with the individual economic, social and environmental impacts.

Sound Science in Regulatory Decisions

AC 05 That the Association develop an improved scientific basis for the measurement of terrestrial and aquatic health in modified environments that does not use 1750 pre-European as the benchmark measurement.

State Government Agencies

State Government Agencies

02 Oct EC That the Association seek that the State Government transfer the advisory role of the DLWC to NSW Agriculture (including the proposed extension officers) and that NSW Agriculture begin to take a more involved role in the issues under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act and the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

Sustainable Production

Duty of Care

AC 00 That the Association seek that 'Duty of Care' is defined by government in such a way that present landholders are not penalised by the decisions of previous or present generations or governments, and that farmers alone do not bear the costs of public good conservation or remediation.

AC 01 That the Association seek that: (a) conservation targets be outlined in terms of species, habitat or ecosystem quality, balanced with land area; and (b) where these targets go beyond a landholder's duty of care, conservation activities must be on a voluntary basis; and (c) voluntary activities should be encouraged through the use of appropriate and adequate incentives.

Natural Heritage Trust Fund

AC 06 That the Association lobby the Federal Government to ensure that National Heritage Trust funding guidelines require State governments to:

- a) change or remove aspects of native vegetation and threatened species policy that result in adverse economic and environmental impacts; and
- b) develop co-operative partnerships with private landholders.

97 Oct GC That the Association seek that the majority of the Natural Heritage Trust be spent on 'grassroots' land care projects.

Property Management Planning

95 Apr GC That the Association seek that the Commonwealth:

- (a) support the development of wider use of Property Management Planning (PMP), but in doing so fully acknowledge that the use of PMPs for compliance purposes will completely erode any advantages arising from their wider adoption;
- (b) clearly acknowledge that ownership of PMPs resides solely and exclusively with the farm operator;
- (c) endorse the concept that sustainable resource utilisation must incorporate both economic and environmental sustainability of the farm sector, and acknowledge that changes which have an economic impact on the rural sector will also have a related environmental impact; and
- (d) commit to the upgrading of funding for research to ensure that an adequate knowledge base is maintained concerning sustainable farm management practices in Australia.

Special Conservation Scheme Fund

97 Oct GC That the Association request the funding of the Special Conservation Scheme and other loans from Commonwealth and State governments should be on the basis that as repayments are made, these funds become available for other projects that are eligible for the scheme.

Sustainable Development Policy

AC01 That the Association participate in the development of a balanced policy for sustainable development, production and protection of the rural environment which: (a) promotes the concept that the private ownership of land and the security of water are the optimal systems of tenure to achieve sustainability; (b) supports and extends the use of existing practices that have improved soil quality and productivity; (c) encourages the development of appropriate technology to reduce the release of harmful particulate matter and other environmentally damaging emissions to the atmosphere, the oceans and the rivers; (d) encourages minimisation of waste and promotes waste recycling; (e) identifies research and development for new economic practices and technology to maintain and improve soil quality and productivity; (f) aims to conserve a comprehensive genetic pool of animal and plant material; and (g) will eliminate the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons other than for essential purposes where no reasonable alternative is available.

Threatened Species

Amendment of Threatened Species Amendment Bill

Amendment of Threatened Species Amendment Bill

reflect:

- (a) A commitment from Government that Routine Agricultural Management Activities related to threatened species licensing are not restricted to those activities listed in the Native Vegetation Act;
- (b) A commitment from Government that farmers have the same degree of legal protection by using a "defence" as opposed to accessing an exemption;
- (c) Clarification of Sections 126B-F of the amendment bill, such that the Minister for the Environment does not have the power of veto over whole of government natural resource management decisions;
- (d) CMAs to be delegated threatened species decision making powers in their own right, as agreed by the Government on 5 December 2003 in the Legislative Council; and
- (e) Socio-economic impacts must be considered prior to the listing of any threatened species, with the final decision to list to be made by the NRC.

EC Oct 04 That the Association request the Government to impose a moratorium on Threatened Species Preliminary and Final Determinations until the NRC, NRAC and CMAs are fully functional and amendments to the Threatened Species Act are enacted and Native Vegetation Regulations are finalised.

Amendment to Threatened Species Conservation Act and Fisheries Management Act

AC 01 That the Association seek that the Threatened Species Conservation Act and the Fisheries Management Act be amended to:

- (a) establish an independent Economic and Social Committee to operate parallel with the independent Scientific Committee;
- (b) require that preliminary recommendations by the Scientific Committee to be referred to the Economic and Social Committee;
- (c) require the Minister to consider these reports from both Committees prior to recommending whether or not the listing is progressed;
- (d) require both Committees to review the removal of existing listings on request.

Delisting of Species

AC 02 That the Association lobby the State Government so that White Box, Yellow Box, Blakeleys Red Gum and *Bothriochloa Biloba* (a red grass) are 'delisted' from the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Listing of Threatened Species

05 Feb EC That the Association requires that listing of threatened species or ecological communities as threatened species under the Threatened Species Conservation Act do not affect agricultural activities that require consent under the Threatened Species Conservation Act until a full recovery plan or threat abatement plan is in place.

Precautionary Principles

AC 00 That the Association seek that before the application of the 'Precautionary Principle' that the likelihood of significant risk to the environment must be demonstrated.

Prescribed Routine Agricultural Activities

97 May GC That the Association:

- (a) support the retention and preservation, where practical, of threatened species;
- (b) reject the approach promoted by the discussion paper "(proposed initial) Prescribed Routine Agricultural Activities under the Threatened Species Conservation Act", as being too prescriptive, open ended and an inappropriate method of achieving this goal;
- (c) agree that clearly defined, justified and agreed, temporary management initiatives may be required in some circumstances pending the establishment of "Recovery Plans" and "Threat Abatement Plans"; and
- (d) consider that the identification and appropriate management of habitat through the proposed regional vegetation management plans, combined with an education program and provision of appropriate incentives to farmers would result in a more favourable outcome for threatened species.

That the Association seek that both the Federal and New South Wales Governments re-direct their focus to the eradication of feral animals and provide funds for the construction of feral-free reserves.

That the Association seek that the presumption of "mens rea" be specifically legislated for in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, thereby ensuring that the Crown must provide that there is in fact a "guilty mind" before any prosecution of an alleged offence under this legislation can be successfully launched.

That the Association seek that the defence of "honest and reasonable belief", as laid down by the High Court in *Proudman v. Dayman* (1941) 67 CLR 536 be specifically legislated for in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, thereby ensuring that farmers (and others) will be immune from prosecution under this legislation if they have made an "honest and reasonable mistake" in respect of an alleged offence.

Recovery Plans

Recovery Plans

develop recovery plans prior to listing threatened species. The proposed plan must include a full socio-economic study and full consultation with farmers.

Scientific and Practical Approach

AC 06 That the Association seek a new scientific and practical approach to the federal and NSW process for listing and protecting threatened species and ecological communities.

Threatened Species

AC 07 That the Association lobby the Government:

- a) request the Coastal Catchment Management Authorities list Swamp Oak and Melaleuca as invasive native species.
- b) to recognise the severe impact woody weeds have on the farming community by not allowing their control; and
- c) lobby to have land zoned Rural Residential or Rural treated the same under the Threatened Species Act

Threatened Species List

97 Oct GC That the Association request:

- (a) that all scientific research and extension organisations be circularised for comment and review of the list of threatened species as contained in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995; and
- (b) that common names be added to the lists, with widespread publicity of the lists and the review of the Act be made as a matter of urgency.

Waste Disposal

Dumping of Aircraft Waste

97 Feb GC That the Association:

- (a) condemn in the strongest terms the dumping of aircraft waste at the Castlereagh tip, an open and non-secure site, subject to leaching, bird and animal infestation; and
- (b) request a full investigation of disposal facilities and methods at all overseas ports and airports throughout Australia

High Temperature Incinerator

That the Association seek that no high temperature incinerator be located anywhere in pastoral, agricultural or inhabited land in Australia until the EIS process being undertaken has shown that high temperature incineration is the best available technology and that it imposes no environmental hazards.

That the Association request the Government to reinstate funds for further research and the development of alternative technology for the safe destruction of toxic waste on site where produced.

Load Based Licensing

AC 00 That the Association seek that the fee for the load based component of a license under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act be preserved for research and development into better pollution control measures.

AC 98 That the Association adopt a policy of 'no pollution - no fee' regarding the EPA's Load Based Licensing Scheme.

Nuclear Waste

99 Feb GC That the Association, in keeping with Australia's clean green image, strongly disagree with buying nuclear waste from other countries on Australian soil.

Pollution and Equity

93 Oct GC That the Association ensure that Government Policy on pollution law matters imposes the same standards for the Government and its instrumentalities as are imposed on other citizens.

Septic Tanks

AC 99 That the Association:

- (a) oppose inspection fees for on-site waste disposal systems unless they can be proven to pose a threat to human health or the environment; and
- (b) seek, that where registration is required, the fee for on-site waste disposal systems be a minimal amount which is payable only when the on-site waste disposal system is first registered.

Waste Industry Developments

96 Oct GC That the Association oppose waste industry developments whereby the transport, processing and storage of waste creates unacceptable levels of risk in relation to:

- (a) the introduction of exotic pests, weeds and diseases to agricultural areas; and

Waste Industry Developments

(b) the contamination of water, soil and vegetation.

Water

Coastal Water

EC March 08

Long term planning

• The Association lobby the Government to investigate and implement a long-term water strategy for coastal areas which addresses;

(a) Urban, industrial, and rural residential pressures on coastal water

(b) Saline and other water quality issues, and

(c) The need for greater water storage capacity to support growth.

Macro plans

• That the Association seek :

(a) Inclusion of Urban water in the water sharing and planning process.

(b) That Government provides increased resources to the Macro Water Sharing Process so as to enable adequate local stakeholder input into Macro Water Sharing Plans, and that plans are completed as a priority.

(c) The Department of Water and Energy ensures that coastal issues identified by the Association are considered in the Macro planning process on a catchment by catchment basis.

(d) That high volume users (e.g Mines and Power Stations) are subject to the same water restrictions as Agriculture in times of water scarcity.

(e) Improved telemetry and information regarding water availability in NSW coastal rivers and water courses.

(f) a partnership program for introduction of standardised metering.

Harvestable rights

• That the Government revisit harvestable rights policy with reference to the special needs and attributes of coastal environments, taking into account local variation, so as to enable greater harvesting in suitable landscapes and do not undermine the integrity of existing water sharing plans;

• That special attention is given in this process to the unique needs and attributes of saline systems;

• That the Association lobby for improved data and analysis of topography and hydrology (land and streams), in order to support revision of limits to dam construction (e.g. third order streams).

Incentives for promotion of high-flow extraction

• That the Association seek incentives to extract high-flow water on the eastern fall by lobbying the State Government to:

(a) Increase the rate of exchange from low-flow water to high-flow from 1:2.5 to a higher ratio to reflect the capacity of regional supply systems.

Greater on-farm storages

• The Association lobby for greater capacity of on-farm water storages with the view of harvesting excess water in the system during high flow and high rainfall events.

Mining

• That the Association seek accounting for loss of water resulting from damage to aquifers caused by mining.

AC07 CR1 Coastal Water

That the Association lobby government to:

(a) Establish policy that distinguishes between eastern fall water and western flow water;

(b) Develop integrated water management plans for coastal rivers, that take into account existing and proposed Water Sharing plans as well as present and future needs for urban, rural and industrial supply; and

(c) Review Eastern Fall harvestable rights to determine potential increases.

Groundwater

AC 03 That the Association seek that the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources address the following outstanding issues before they implement Groundwater Sharing Plans:

(a) Take steps to ascertain the full requirement for stock and domestic water users (basic rights) and allocate sufficient water for them.

(b) Ensure uniform structural adjustment packages across the state for groundwater irrigators and that any structural adjustment be adequate in ground water areas.

96 Feb GC That the Association demand that in relation to groundwater management fees:

(a) there be no charge for the water resource itself;

(b) there be no charge whatsoever for stock and domestic bores; and

(c) management fees reflect the accurate cost of efficient administration of licensing and development of sustainable allocation policy, and the apportioned cost of monitoring and resource management, that is attributable to irrigation.

04 Apr EC That the Association lobby Government for the extension of funding of the present Cap & Pipe and Bores Scheme, with funds being allocated for the next five (5) year period, and the scheme also extended (financially and actively) to low and no flow artesian bores.

Groundwater

- (a) any State or Federal loan funding for the piped reticulation of water from artesian bores for stock and domestic use, be repayable over a minimum of 15 years;
- (b) all income and asset testing, as applied to funding for piped reticulation of artesian bores for stock and domestic use, be abolished; and
- (c) increased, substantial, long term funding be secured from the Federal Department of Primary Industries and Energy and NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation for the 'Piping of the Bores Scheme' in the Great Artesian Basin.

04 Apr EC That the Association lobby Government for the extension of funding of the present Cap & Pipe and Bores Scheme, with funds being allocated for the next five (5) year period, and the scheme also extended (financially and actively) to low and no flow artesian bores.

AC 98 That the Association support:

- (a) the restriction of existing irrigation licences from the intake beds of the Great Artesian Basin;
- (b) the banning of the issue of new licences and;
- (c) that these regulations be brought in to safeguard declining pressure and volume of flows to existing stock and domestic users, until such time that current research and monitoring provide sufficient accurate information to make informed decisions.

94 Oct GC That the Association seek that the Department of Land and Water Conservation adopt criteria that are based on a sound scientific understanding and consider social, economic and environmental issues when allocating groundwater licences.

97 Oct GC That the Association support an investigation of procedures required to establish effective and practical transferable rights for groundwater licences separate to the land to which they were originally allocated.

AC 96 That the Association assist community, landholder and Government agency based activities aimed at correct management of the Great Artesian Basin, including:

- (a) promoting the capping and piping of the bores;
- (b) regular testing of all bores in the Great Artesian Basin to determine the alteration of flow;
- (c) that no more high yield irrigation bores be allowed in the intake beds of the Great Artesian Basin or the sub-artesian basins within the Great Artesian Basin area;
- (d) that existing high yield irrigation bores in these areas be restricted to a pumping rate ensuring that existing artesian and sub-artesian bores continue to flow;
- (e) that existing undeveloped high use irrigation bore allocations in the intake beds of the Great Artesian Basin be withdrawn and, if appropriate, compensation be paid.

99 Feb GC That the Association oppose water trading in the Great Artesian Basin and any new bores be licensed on the capacity of the aquifer in that zone.

AC 08 That the Association:

- (a) Support members in their endeavours to get more Government Hydrologists, as members have been experiencing a loss in productivity with delays of up to 2 years;
- (b) Seek that additional resources allocated to the Department of Water and Energy is put towards additional hydrologists in order to expedite approval of ground water (irrigation bore) production licences.

National Water

04 Apr EC That with respect to the COAG National Water Initiative the Association support the NFF Risk Proposal paper.

Stock and Domestic

AC 08 That the Association lobby for subsidies for Cap and Pipe schemes to be made available to Rural Lands Protection Boards where Travelling Stock Reserves join private properties watered by the scheme.

AC June 07

CR4 Water - Stock and Domestic Water

That the Association seek in the hierarchy of water security that stock and domestic and urban rights are treated equally.

That the Association, in relation to the reasonable use of Basic Landholder Rights to stock and domestic water, seek:

- (a) Reasonable use of domestic water which is consistent with that imposed by the nearest water utility where the same aquifer/ water source is drawn.
- (b) In relation to delivery infrastructure the Association seek:
 - I. A maximum pump/ pipe size of 50ml (2inch) and max bore size of 150ml (6 inch), or
 - II. In the event that (I) is not practical, a deeming provision can apply of 10 ML per title per annum, except in the Western Division of NSW where local guidelines can apply
- (c) The efficient delivery/ conveyance of stock and domestic water, thus supporting the replacement of open channels and shallow dams (and other inefficient systems which result in seepage and evaporation losses) with

Stock and Domestic

equipment such as closed pipes, troughs and storage tanks.

(d) That clause (b) and (c) are implemented on the provision that:

- I. A sufficient phase in period is established and agreed upon by the Association to reduce the impact of additional costs of replacing equipment, and
- II. A satisfactory grant or subsidy is provided for new equipment (pumps, pipes, tanks, trough etc.).

04 Feb EC That in respect to stock and domestic water rights:

- i That no further rural residential or urban subdivision be consented to in sensitive areas until an adequate water supply for stock and domestic purposes has been secured.
- ii Water for stock as required, with no requirements that this water be pumped.

Total Catchment Management

AC 02 That the Association seek that 'aspirational' targets developed by Catchment Management Boards, and detailed in Catchment Blueprints, do not become regulatory.

That the Association supports the concept of total catchment management to encourage:

- (a) sound landcare and water use practices;
- (b) increased native vegetation plantings; and
- (c) protection, repair and recovery of problem areas where feasible by applying the following principles to ensure the success of the concept through the full, enthusiastic co-operation of landholders and land users:
 - (i) to have formal representation on all Catchment Management Boards and for these Boards to retain a landholder majority;
 - (ii) landholder and land user representatives on Catchment Management Boards must be appointed by the Minister on advice from regional selection committees;
 - (iii) the major funding for catchment management activities and programs must be provided by Commonwealth and State Governments;
 - (iv) the creation of Catchment Management Trusts is opposed by the Association;
 - (v) in any event, no Catchment Management Trust shall be formed without first obtaining the approval of a majority of the ratepayers through a plebiscite;
 - (vi) the Chairman of the State Catchment Management Co-ordinating Board must be an independent person of high standing in the rural community;
 - (vii) all non-government members attending Catchment Management Board meetings must be paid a sitting fee, in addition to their out-of-pocket expenses;
 - (viii) funds made available for catchment management purposes must be used "on the ground" and not to build bureaucratic empires; and
 - (ix) the substituting of non land user representatives in the case of absenteeism without the authority of delegation should be discouraged.

AC 02 That the Association lobby the NSW Government to ensure that any member of a NSW Catchment Management Board, Regional Vegetation Committee and Water Management Committee cannot undertake any paid consultancy work relating to that Board due to a conflict of interest.

00 Feb GC That the Association monitor SEPP 58 and where necessary challenge assumptions in the final CSIRO Report to the Minister on the Hydrological catchment report for the Sydney Basin wherever natural resources uncertainty and seasonal unpredictability are not recognised.

02 May EC That the Association lobby and work with all appropriate Government Agencies to eliminate the current overlapping of management responsibilities, clearly defining the roles for catchment management, water management and vegetation management at the community level.

Water Efficiency

AC 04 That the Association, as an issue of national priority, encourage governments at all levels to legislate for and implement water recycling and conservation in urban areas.

AC 98 That the Association seek that the NSW Government develop water conservation and management policies which:

- (a) protect the viability of all agricultural production;
- (b) are applicable to the entire community and not just irrigators;
- (c) adopt proactive, inclusive and co-operative approaches that are less dependent on regulation;
- (d) extend the time frame for water reform;
- (e) take full consideration of the social and economic impacts on an individual basis before they are implemented; and
- (f) allow further farming development where it is applicable.

AC 99 That the Association strongly urge Sydney Water to adopt a recycling system to promote more efficient use of water in urban areas.

Water Extraction and Storage

Water Extraction and Storage

- (a) challenge the assumption that all run-off water is owned by the State;
- (b) seek legal opinion on the rights of land holders to the water that falls on their land; and
- (c) seek that NSW Government water management policies:
 - (i) have this water entitlement permanently attached to the land title;
 - (ii) encourage construction of stock and domestic farm dams by appropriate tax incentives, grants, subsidies and the immediate removal of any artificial administrative restrictions;
 - (iii) remove the current 7ML limit on the size of stock and domestic water supply dams on unregulated flows; and
 - (iv) determine water entitlements on unregulated streams as soon as possible, and put in place effective rules to allow a water market to emerge.

That the Association implore the State and Federal Governments to conduct studies into the most appropriate ways of storing more water in this country in times of excessive rainfall (flood) having due regard for the environment, future population growth and the continued sustainability of agriculture.

AC 04 That the Association seek:

- (a) that due to the current run of dry years, pressure be put on government to increase the stock and domestic water harvesting ability of land holders to twenty percent;
- (b) that it oppose any increase in harvesting overland water flows for irrigation purposes.

99 Oct GC That the Association:

- (a) not support licensing and metering of farm dams;
- (b) supports water rights for irrigators; and
- (c) supports upland irrigators storing and using 10% run-off based on simple and understandable rules.

AC 99 That the Association reject the translucent dam policy.

Water Infrastructure Projects

EC Oct 04 That the Association lobby for:

- (a) the NSW Government to immediately reopen negotiations with the re-elected Australian Government on the CoAG National Water Initiative; and
- (b) the NSW Government to provide funding for innovative water-saving schemes in country NSW.

AC 96 That the Association request that the Department of Land & Water Conservation use the following procedures for applications for permits to construct levee banks and other water diversion structures:

- (a) that the Department must notify neighbouring and other affected landholders of the application;
- (b) that notified landholders have the right of site inspection;
- (c) that permits not utilised have a sunset clause;
- (d) works on designated floodplains and in recognised wetlands be subject to community developed and agreed guidelines; and
- (e) that the Department of Land & Water Conservation put in place appropriate resources to deal with applications for earthworks promptly and further where existing works have been constructed without consent or proper consultation and have a detrimental effect on other landholders they be removed.

AC 99 That the Association seek financial assistance from the State Government for landholders wishing to extend reticulated stock and domestic water supplies.

AC 00 That the Association seek both State and Federal Government support for the Watering Australia Foundation's scheme to transfer water from northern Australia to dry regions in the south and west of the country.

Water Infrastructure Sales

06 Mar EC That the Association investigates the implications for rural NSW of the sale of the Snowy Hydro Corporation, to ensure that irrigation rights are further recognised and protected in any future change of ownership.

Water Licensing, Allocation and Trade

99 Feb GC That the Association oppose water trading in the Great Artesian Basin and any new bores be licensed on the capacity of the aquifer in that zone.

94 Oct GC That the Association should:

- (a) represent the needs of all agricultural water users and acknowledge that water is to be shared between all water users; and
- (b) ensure that cooperative approaches are used to develop appropriate mechanisms which will ensure that excessive extraction of both surface and groundwater supplies for irrigation does not jeopardise higher priority water uses;
- (c) the right of objection to the issue or permanent transfer of licences should be restricted to those people who are directly affected by the proposed works;
- (d) the issue or transfer of licences for irrigation from bores should only be permitted when it can be shown that existing stock water bores in the area will not be unduly affected; and
- (e) inter-valley transfer of water licences should be allowed where:

Water Licensing, Allocation and Trade

- (i) the physical transfer of water is possible; and
- (ii) the transfer is subject to stringent social, economic and environmental considerations.

AC 00 That the Association adopt as policy and publicise the 'Water for Life' submission that was prepared in response to the NSW Water Reforms.

04 Apr EC That the Association reject the amendment to the State Water Management Act 2000 proposing that the government can resume up to 10% of entitlements during and at the roll over of Water Sharing Plans with no compensation

AC 95 That the Association request, as a short term solution, the Department of Land and Water Conservation to manage river flows on the Barwon-Darling to provide a minimum constant flow to supply stock and domestic and combat the outbreaks of blue-green algae.

00 Feb GC That the Association seek that in valleys where there is water available for further extraction, a water allocation be available to new agricultural enterprises on the basis of the water needs of that enterprise, recognising that without access to water, agricultural development in NSW must be curtailed.

AC 97 That the Association endorse the need and urge for speedy introduction of clearly defined, unattenuated water property rights.

That the Association adopt as policy:

- (a) that temporary transfer and permanent sale of surface water licences should be allowed separate from the land within each of the major river valleys and coastal streams of NSW, subject to the consideration of channel capacity and efficiency of delivery; and
- (b) that the issue, renewal or transfer of irrigation licences should be free of the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

AC 05 That the Association ensure that:

- (a) any water for the environment that is procured by identifying "savings" be "physical" water not "theoretical" water and that this water be independently audited;
- (b) water purchased for the environment must maintain its original characteristics/classification (e.g. general security, high security etc.) and must consider inclusion of actual transmission losses to the delivery point for which it is intended;
- (c) any water purchased or procured for the environment be done on a totally transparent basis that will ensure a "no regrets" outcome; and
- (d) the process of applying the cap be consistent across all valleys, that is, history of use or equal cut/cap.

EC Mar 09 The Association seek to reinforce the existing principle that water entitlement can only be traded within connected systems.

AC 00 That the Association does not support the release of any environmental flows into the Snowy River unless government acknowledge (financially) that without substantial efforts to clear the river of weeds, willows and silt, any release will be wasted.

AC 99 That the Association pursue the Government to make allocations for environmental flows a part of the normal water market.

00 May GC That the Association continue to seek the highest possible level of security of access to water for all sectors of agriculture, but that in times of severe water rationing the Association reaffirm its water licence allocation policy, that taking into account the water requirements of the environment, equal priority be given firstly to stock (including intensive livestock) and household (excluding garden) uses, then at a second level, equal priority be given to irrigation, commercial and industrial uses, and where re-allocation of existing entitlements is necessary, it should be purchased at full market value.

97 Oct GC That the Association ensures the Government continues to embrace adequate industry consultation within each catchment in order that a fair and equitable basis can be determined for the allocation of water within the catchment between all users/beneficiaries including domestic, livestock, environment and irrigation.

AC 08 That Government activities in the water market be conducted under full price disclosure within 24hrs of contract signing.

AC June 2007

CR5 - Carryover water

That the Association demand that Irrigators "Carry Over" water be recognised as "above" high security water, but below stock and domestic water, and it must be written into the Water Act 2000.

AC 97 That the Association:

- (a) impress on the NSW Government the importance to both farmers and the NSW Government of the lost revenue if it persists in applying the water cap as a reduction in entitlement;
- (b) seek that Murrumbidgee licensed pumpers' high reliance on off-allocation water continue to be recognised by the Department of Land & Water Conservation and Murray-Darling Basin Commission; and
- (c) totally reject the permanent MDBC cap on Lachlan Valley irrigation diversions, and instead, support the

Water Licensing, Allocation and Trade

development of a community agreed flow management regime that is underpinned by a sound scientific justification.

AC 08 That the Association lobby the Government to extinguish all water licenses they buy back.

CR5.1 Water Allocation

05 Oct EC That the State Government in any future water access licence reduction program must:

- (a) recognise that all water access licences, whether developed or not, have an intrinsic value represented in the value of the land to which the licence is applied;
- (b) recognise water dependent investments made by licence holders;
- (c) tailor a water access licence reduction program for each water system, and where appropriate, recognise historical extraction; and
- (d) the impact of the reduction programs be contained within the target area.

EC OCT 2007

That the Association seek that all water brokers are licensed.

EC March 08

That an embargo be placed on all new irrigation bore licences and mining bore licences until the department has conducted a full analysis, so that existing bore licences are not negatively impacted.

06 Oct EC That the Association lobby Government to withdraw from the purchase of water until:

- a) the drought is over; and
- b) a program is developed with industry for Government to pay substantial incentives that must be used for water (permanent) saving technology to maintain the viability of irrigators and rural communities.

EC Oct 2005 That the State Government in any future water access licence reduction program must:

- a) recognise that all water access licences, whether developed or not, have an intrinsic value represented in the value of the land to which the licence is applied;
- b) recognise water dependent investments made by licence holders;
- c) tailor a water access licence reduction program for each water system, and where appropriate, recognise historical extraction; and
- d) the impact of the reduction programs be contained within the target area.

99 Oct GC That the Association lobby the NSW Government to ensure that the corporatisation of the Snowy Hydro ensures reserving 500GL for drought for use by irrigators above allocation.

AC 08 That the Association support all irrigation schemes in modernisation programs without a trade-off of water.

AC 98 That the Association, in relation to floodplain and river corridor management, reject the current Department of Land and Water Conservation practice of licensing exclusion banks on floodplains and that the Association press the Department of Land and Water Conservation to carry out the implementation of the Water Administration Act.

Water Management and Planning

AC 03 That in the event of increased environmental flows under the Living Murray Initiative they be achieved by the Association seeking:

- (a) improved management of water flows in the River Murray System
- (b) ongoing off-farm infrastructure (this would include locks, barrages and river infrastructure)
- (c) Via a buy back scheme from willing sellers after achieving the water savings from (a) and (b). Potential community impacts such as stranded assets would need to be evaluated.
- (d) That the Snowy Hydro needs to be part of the process and cannot continue to operate outside of it.

AC 08 That the Association call upon Government to cease purchasing water until a full assessment is made of the:

- a) transparency and auditing of water purchases;
- b) impact on the viability of group supply systems;
- c) impact on irrigated dependant communities, including demographics;
- d) impact on irrigated agriculture's ability to continue to sustain and increase food production.

AC 95 That the Association recognise the looming potential disaster of widespread salting in the dryland and irrigation areas of the Murray Darling Basin, and encourage both community and government to support the development of land and water management plans in priority areas, leading to the implementation of on-ground works to address the problem.

03 Apr EC That the Association seek that the NSW Government not endorse any decisions made by the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council in relation to The Living Murray Initiative until comprehensive social and economic impact studies on all proposals (i.e. flow regimes) for the River Murray communities are undertaken and have been made available for the community to consider for a period of 12 months.

AC 03 That the Association seek:

Water Management and Planning

(a) That the Ministerial Council recognise the 1993-94 Cap benchmark for any future environmental flow accounting.

(b) That the Federal and State Governments recognise that the NSW water-sharing plans have provided the NSW contribution to the Living Murray Initiative.

That the Association recognise in relation to water management that:

(a) the Environment Protection Authority should develop practical and economically viable water quality objectives in cooperation with the community; and

(b) the Government should allow competition between the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the private sector for management of major water infrastructure to efficiently deliver flows that satisfy both consumptive use and environmental objectives.

AC 06 That the Association:

a) consider withdrawing support for the National Water Initiative (NWI) until such time as the State and Federal governments deliver consistent and complete implementation of the NWI in a way that delivers true water resource security for farmers;

b) with regard to bulk water pricing, lobby at state and national level to ensure that:

i) the independence and power of IPART to scrutinise water delivery and management costs is increased;

ii) IPART provides no more than CPI increases to MDBC until such time as governments (state & federal) enable full scrutiny of its costs;

iii) there is true contestability of the services delivered against the prices charges (state water, DMR, MDBC);

iv) that upper bound pricing is not applied; and

v) there is no progression to full cost recovery until all other aspects of NWI policy are delivered.

07 Mar EC That the Association lobby the State and Federal Governments to ensure that the National Plan for Water Security:

a) ensures that new urban water demand is met by urban water savings and not from agricultural supply;

b) fully supports all of the principles and agreements established by the National Water Initiative;

c) guarantees that compensation will be payable if property entitlements are adversely affected;

d) recognises the rigor that was involved in developing existing Water Sharing Plans and ensures that they remain in force until they expire;

e) provides full accounting of transmission losses for all traded water;

f) does not discriminate against particular crop types or irrigation techniques;

g) prevents distortion of water markets by Managed Investment Schemes;

h) protects the viability of existing irrigation communities;

i) provides an open and transparent administration process that streamlines rural water management.

98 Apr GC That the Association totally reject unnecessary duplication of River Management Committees.

AC 01 That the Association seek that full environmental, social and economic studies be carried out in the Sydney Catchment before any further work is done on the REP for Sydney Drinking Water.

EC Mar 09 That the Association lobby the State and Federal Governments to assess the impact of timber/carbon plantations on water availability for agriculture and other uses within the catchment.

96 Feb GC That the Association support a community awareness approach towards wetlands management and oppose the gazettal of a State Environment Planning Policy for all wetlands.

01 Feb GC That the Association:

(a) strongly reject any additional compulsory imposition on rural land use by the Sydney Catchment Regional Environment Plan;

(b) strongly support the development of a system of management payments to landholders for delivering clean water; and

(c) in determining its response, the Association be mindful of precedents for other catchments.

That the Association ensure:

(a) that the Department of Land and Water Conservation carry out the promised survey of the MIA drainage area, with due regard to environmental concerns, and implement the required works for the proper drainage of all irrigation areas and districts, in particular the Barren Box Swamp; and

(b) that every assistance is offered to those landholders affected by the uncontrolled flooding from Barren Box Swamp (MIA drainage) who are seeking just compensation.

98 Apr GC That the Association support the voluntary participation of land managers in development of river corridor management strategies which recognise the needs of both the environment and agriculture.

AC 96 That the Association strongly oppose the compulsory fencing of riparian zones along all waterways, rivers and creeks on agricultural land.

99 Oct GC That the Association lobby the NSW Government to ensure that if a decision is made in favour of returning water to the Snowy River, that the decision:

(a) minimise the impact on irrigators and their communities west of the divide;

Water Management and Planning

- (b) is in line with current government policy that the environmental flow impact to any one valley is not greater than 10% (including Snowy flows);
- (c) is cognisant of government policies for socio-economic impacts to be assessed on affected communities;
- (d) identifies and obtains water efficiency savings before water is returned to the Snowy River.

AC 03 That the Association seek that any contributions under the Living Murray Initiative be fully compensated.

Water Pricing and Monitoring

97 May GC That the Association seek that bulk surface water costs be recovered on a valley by valley basis, with:

- (a) charges reflecting the accurately apportioned infrastructure and resource management costs attributable to the efficient delivery of bulk water for production purposes; and
- (b) environmental costs or charges should be borne by the entire community and paid for by Government as a community service obligation.

AC 98 That the Association oppose any government tax or compulsory charge associated with farm stock and domestic water supplies.

07 Mar EC That the Association lobby to ensure that effective monitoring of bulk water (excluding stock and on farm domestic) extraction is undertaken for those areas not covered by water sharing plans so as to ensure equity in resource use.

AC June 07

CR3 Water - Fixed Charges and Compensation

That the Association lobby the NSW Government to waive all fixed water charges when exceptional circumstances status prevails, and to review Exceptional Circumstances criteria for irrigators.

AC 95 That the Association seek that the Department of Land and Water Conservation be the principal government agency responsible for the introduction of an adequate network for the monitoring of water quality and pollution in our rivers, streams, dams and irrigation areas and districts.

AC 08 That the Association pursue a fairer system for water charges.

AC 98 That the Association request that:

- (a) the Department of Land and Water Conservation or other regulatory water bodies make public, on a regular basis, the volume of the water flow in streams where a measuring device has been installed; and
- (b) the use of measuring devices be extended to rivers and creeks where water users indicate that the installation of such devices is desirable for monitoring purposes.

95 Oct GC That the Association urge the Department of Land and Water Conservation to implement and enforce its rules regarding the monitoring of all irrigation bores.

Weeds Control

Authority on Control of Noxious Weeds

AC 99 That the Association lobby the NSW Government to: (a) place the responsibility for the control of noxious weeds under NSW Agriculture;

- (b) ensure that State Government bodies and Local Government authorities meet their obligations to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds; and
- (c) set appropriate penalties for all who fail to control noxious weeds especially State Government and Local Government Authorities.

Biological Control

06 Oct EC That the Association lobby for the increased research and use of biological control of weeds.

Compulsory Decontamination

99 Oct GC That the Association press the Government to introduce legislation to make it compulsory for the decontamination of earthmoving and farming equipment when leaving noxious weed infested areas to move into clean areas.

Control and Eradication of Noxious Weeds

EC Oct 08 The NSW Farmer's Association lobby the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the National Weeds Advisory committee (NWAC) to appoint a Serrated Tussock Executive Officer/Coordinator for NSW.

AC 04 That the Association: (a) seek that government and relevant authorities increase financial and practical assistance in the control and eradication of noxious weeds on behalf of drought affected land holders

- (b) lobby the Minister for Science and Technology to reintroduce financial assistance for the development of biological control of noxious and nuisance weeds ie a bigger program to keep producing on an annual basis than to release annually

Control and Eradication of Noxious Weeds

(c) lobby the Federal Minister for Agriculture to reintroduce financial assistance for weed research and development in the

Funding and Research on Noxious Weed Control

AC 97 That the Association recommend that the NSW Government: (a) makes available additional funding to assist local control authorities with noxious weed control; and (b) makes every effort to speed up the research into and release of biological control agents in order to relieve the rural sector of the annual cost incurred in controlling weeds.

Increased Funding for Weed Control Reaffirmed

AC 95& 00 Feb GC: That the Association reaffirm its commitment to seek increased funding for weed control through biological and other methods and work to increase community awareness of the ecological and economic cost of the weed problem.

Natural Heritage Trust Funds

98 Jul GC That the Association lobby the Federal Government to allow for increased Natural Heritage Trust funds to be made available for the control of noxious weeds.

Noxious Weed Control Grants

AC 04 That the Association seek that 100% of State Government grants for noxious weed control programs, received by local councils, be used for on ground works.

Noxious Weed Review

06 Oct EC That the Association press the Government to:

- a) review the Noxious Weeds listing criteria;
- b) immediately reinstate Galvanised Burr to the noxious weeds list; and
- c) establish a National Action Plan on Weeds which includes imported plant material.

Obligations for Noxious Weed Control

98 Jul GC That the Association: (a) require that local Government recognise its obligations for the management of noxious weeds and enforce landholder compliance with the noxious weeds act 1993; (b) require that the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 binds the Crown in the same manner as other land managers; (c) oppose the section in the review of the Noxious Weeds Act giving the Native Vegetation Conservation Act and Threatened Species Conservation Act precedence over the Noxious Weeds Act; and (d) marshal specific direct and indirect support for the control and eradication of serrated tussock through the Serrated Tussock Working Party's biological control program and encouragement of the renewal availability of FRENOCK or an equivalent control chemical.

EC Oct 08 That the Association lobbies for the responsibility for weed suppression on roads, reserves and other public land be fully accepted by the relevant managing authority and budget resources are allocated accordingly.

Strategy for the Eradication of Lippia

01 May GC That the Association lobby NSW Department of Agriculture to develop and implement a strategy for the eradication of Lippia including seeking its immediate W1 status as a noxious weed.

Weed Control Funding

AC 97 That the Association press Governments for increased funding to enhance community awareness and action to control weeds whether chemically, mechanically or biologically, and in particular address the following weeds: (a) Flea Bane (b) Fireweed (c) Spiney Burr Grass (d) Blue Heliotrope (e) Giant Parramatta Grass.

Weed Control on Easements

AC 01 That the Association seek that bodies with easements through land be responsible for control of noxious weeds along these easements and their access tracks.

Weed Control Order

06 Mar EC That the Association seek to have the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, extend the public consultation period for the proposed introduction of the Weed Control Order so that a better understanding of the potential impact of the Noxious Weeds Amendment Act 2005 is obtained.

Weed Identification

97 Oct GC That the Association urge the State Government to ensure that weeds which threaten the profitability or sustainability of agriculture in New South Wales are considered for identification as weeds of national significance.

Woody Weeds

Control of Woody Weeds

AC 98 That the Association seek that the use of cultivation and cropping be recognised as a necessary method of controlling the regrowth of woody weeds and other endemic and exotic weeds.

Fines for Spread of Noxious Weeds

AC 95 That the Association seek that fines for those who contribute to the spread of already serious noxious weeds, in particular parthenium weed, are raised to a substantial level and the standard of inspection at the Queensland border should be greatly improved.

Parthenium Weed

AC 98 That the Association urge the NSW Government to further develop inspection methods so that stock and grain transports can be effectively inspected for parthenium seed at the Queensland border.