

Dear Members,



What a shake-up we have seen in the last week! We have been expecting the energy and excitement that comes from the heralding of official election campaigning, but instead that has been created by a leadership change, and consequently a new Prime Minister.

The Association is confident it can work with Julia Gillard, as it has worked with Kevin Rudd and his office in the past. What is important about our Federal Election Campaign is not who we are talking to, because we plan to speak to everyone, but the messages we are taking to these politicians.

Last week, we clearly heralded what is one of the key components in our election campaign, property rights, by handing over the Property Rights Petition to Tony Abbott. While last week's other events in Canberra have made it highly unlikely the Leader of the Opposition will have had a chance to table this petition to Parliament, it is another way in which we are able to create a growing awareness of these issues. You can see Tony Abbott's comments to me about property rights in [this Land article](#).

It is with sadness that I express the Association's regret for the death of dedicated Association representative Robert Seekamp.

Mr Seekamp was the Chairman of NSW Farmers' Association's Wentworth Branch, Lower Western District Council and a Western Division Councilor. Mr Seekamp had been a Member the Association since 1994.

Mr Seekamp was well known for his dedication to getting better outcomes for isolated land holders and their families, being also involved in the Isolated Children and Parents Association, and serving on the committee of the Agricultural Fair at Broken Hill. He was also the Immediate Past President of the Pastoralists Association of the West Darling.

The Association's condolences go to the Seekamp family, and to the community of Broken Hill.

Until next fortnight,
Charles Armstrong

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