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Coalition's commitment for farmers rights

The NSW Farmers' Association welcomes the Coalition's commitment to undertake an audit of the "green tape" choking agricultural production in Australia.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John Cobb has told the Association that the Coalition, if elected next month, will conduct a \$2 million audit of all environmental Legislation currently applicable to food production at all levels to highlight green tape which is putting lives at risk, is unworkable, contradictory or incompatible with other legislation.

NSW Farmers' Association's President Charles Armstrong says the Association is very pleased that this commitment would include property rights in its study.

"Farmers are subject to a massive amount of environmental legislation, a lot of which is directly impacting our property rights. Farmers are not receiving just - terms compensation," Mr Armstrong said.

"Farmers are Australia's front line in environmental protection. It is our job to ensure the land is looked after.

"An audit will identify which environmental regulations are practical, workable and enforceable and is clearly needed," he said.

Mr Armstrong also welcomed Mr Cobb's commitment to ensure that a comprehensive Senate Inquiry into proposed Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines is undertaken.

"The Association is also calling on the Federal Government to establish a Senate inquiry to investigate all the issues and ramifications of the proposed Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines," he said.

"The Association believes animal welfare in Australia is already and always has been well taken care of by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the animal welfare codes.

"There is concern in the community that the new rules would create a licence to farm. A Senate Inquiry to address these concerns is urgently required," Mr Armstrong concluded.

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