

2008 Annual Conference

30 Years As One Voice

Media Release



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Water worries

Water is hot on the agenda today at the NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference, with Members calling upon Government to change the way it purchases water from irrigators.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Government must provide transparency in its water purchases, as it is currently extremely difficult to assess the actual impacts on the market.

"The Association is calling on the Government to cease purchasing water until a full assessment is made of the transparency and auditing of water purchases; impact on the viability of group supply systems; impact on irrigation dependant communities, including demographics and the impact on irrigated agriculture's ability to continue to sustain and increase food production," he said.

"Delegates have also voted to lobby the Government to ensure its activities in the water market be conducted under full price disclosure within 24hrs of contract signing," he said.

"While the Association welcomed the establishment of the Water Buy Back Stakeholder Consultative Committee to provide feedback on design and implementation of the Government's water purchase program into the future, we are disappointed at the lack of detail provided in the newly published website for government water buy backs.

"We believe that social and economic impact statements should be prepared as part of the Basin Plan process.

"The Government has promised transparency in the water market, and the Association looks forward to discussing this with Government to ensure that this happens sooner rather than later," Mr Laurie concluded.

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