

Media Release

Wednesday 6 August, 2008
PR/149/08



Grocery Inquiry concerns

The NSW Farmers' Association says while it acknowledges the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) Grocery Inquiry, farmers continue to need to have retail prices reflect farmgate prices as well as the rising costs of production on farm

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Federal Government should consider looking into the competitive forces that apply directly at the farmer level.

"We are pleased the ACCC has recognised that many factors outside farmers' control have contributed to the rising cost of food at the retail level," said Mr Laurie.

"These include the increasing cost of farming given the rapidly increasing cost of inputs such as fertiliser and fuel, the effects of the drought on the supply of food, and increasing global agricultural commodity demand," he said.

"However, farmers are not always in a position to pass these increased costs of production on to the retailer," he said.

"We will be looking closely at the detail of this report in coming days, as will our other state farming colleagues, and our federal counterpart the National Farmers' Federation," he said.

"Farmers are key stakeholders in the grocery supply chain, producing the primary products used in the development of almost all food stuffs. We have a strong interest in ensuring transparency," Mr Laurie concluded.

Contact:

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

