

Wednesday 7 July 2010

PR/132/10

Rebuilding Regions workshop a chance to find solutions

The NSW Farmers' Association will use a policy forum with the NSW Liberals & Nationals in Dubbo next week to discuss ways to improve life for people in regional NSW.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong, NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell, and NSW National Party Leader Andrew Stoner will be among some of the speakers at next week's major event.

Charles Armstrong says it's a valuable opportunity.

"In the lead up to the NSW State Election next year, the policy forum will address issues including the economy, social policy, transport and infrastructure, environment, water and planning," Mr Armstrong said.

"For the Association, social policy is particularly important for the sustainability of regional NSW, as it goes to the heart of our problems," he said.

"With over 2,000 agricultural graduates needed every year and the annual number of agricultural graduates only at around 800 there is a clear need to support and encourage agricultural education and students.

"We need to foster and expose primary school students across the country to the value and contribution of agriculture to the national economy.

"Education also involves the provision of suitable resources so that students and teachers in rural areas have the ability to access the same services and achieve the same outcomes as their metropolitan counterparts.

"Other important social issues on the agenda include the provision of health services, including mental health, the development and support of rural communities, and telecommunications," Mr Armstrong said.

"The Association is looking forward to discussing these and other issues with policy makers at this forum, and at a later date with Country Labor. By making our politicians aware of these issues we can push for meaningful change," Mr Armstrong concluded.

The *Rebuilding the Regions Workshop* will be held on Friday 16 July, at Charles Sturt University Dubbo, from 9am. This meeting will be closed to the public, with casual Members drinks session held at the conclusion of the day from 4:30pm.

(Note: Media are welcome to attend for a pic fac in the morning from 10am – 10:30. A media conference will be held at 12:30pm.)

Contact:

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

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list simply [click here](#) to unsubscribe. If you are having difficulty unsubscribing from this page please email us on media@nswfarmers.org.au and we will remove you from our lists.