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Federal Labor fails to commit to farmers property rights

The Federal Labor Party has failed to make any commitment to shore up the property rights of farmers during the 2010 Election Campaign, according to the NSW Farmers' Association.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the property rights of farmers are critical to ensure food security for all Australians.

"Property owners need just terms compensation, where the cost of community benefit has been transferred to them," Mr Armstrong said.

"Due to increasing global demand for food, agriculture has a very bright future in Australia, but we have to get policy settings right at a Federal level.

"The rights of farmers in relation to their properties are at the heart of everything they do – and unless these rights are giving some sanctity, farmers will not be confident to invest in the industry because the risk is too great," Mr Armstrong said.

"Over the course of this Federal Election campaign, we have seen much media attention given to issues surrounding population growth, climate change and sustainability.

"However, favourable outcomes in these key policy areas will not be achieved if farmers' property rights are not secured," Mr Armstrong said.

The Association has identified four key areas regarding the property rights of farmers: Just terms compensation; Native Vegetation; Murray Darling Basin Plan and Mining.

"Farmers must be allowed to sustainably manage and develop their properties to ensure that farming continues to be a vital part of Australian society and our economy, being a supplier of food and key rural employer.

While the Association acknowledges the Federal Government's National Food Plan announced recently, it is disappointed that Labor hasn't turned its attention to fixing the erosion of farmers' property rights.

"Without secure property rights, there will be no farmers and therefore no food," Mr Armstrong said.

Meanwhile, the NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the Federal Coalition's commitment of a "green tape" audit choking agricultural production in Australia.

More information regarding the Association's Federal Election policy position on property rights, go to the NSW Farmers' Association Federal Election Website
www.nswfarmers.org.au/federal_election/home

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