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High Court challenge one for all farmers

The NSW Farmers' Association says in a test case for all Australian farmers, the Association will support Peter Spencer in taking his case further in the High Court on June 16.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the Association has provided significant financial support to Peter Spencer's High Court legal challenge directly and through the Australian Farmers' Fighting Fund because the ramifications of this case are wide.

"The Commonwealth Constitution contains protections against unfettered Federal Government power to appropriate private property, and states that just terms compensation must be paid for any acquisition of property," Mr Armstrong said.

"The NSW Constitution contains no such guarantee.

"We are seeking just terms compensation for all farmers, and in this case for Mr Spencer. We have earmarked this issue as the primary area of concern for Association Members," Mr Armstrong said.

"In many cases, NSW legislation has effectively sterilised the productive capacity of farmers land," he said.

The Association has briefed David Jackson QC, Bret Walker SC and Junior Counsel Luke Livingston in preparation for the Special Leave to Appeal Application taking place June 16, June 17 at the High Court in Canberra.

"Unless the property rights of farmers are recognised and given some sanctity, farmers will not be confident to invest in the industry because the risk is too great.

"The property rights of farmers affects every man, woman and child in Australia, because without a productive agricultural industry Australia's food security will be threatened," Mr Armstrong concluded.

Contact:

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

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