

North Coast
Michael Burt

Growing
the Business
of Farming | **NSW Farmers
ASSOCIATION**

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

www.nswfarmers.org.au

June 2010

Dear Member,

Welcome to the June Edition of the North Coast Newsletter. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information on items in the newsletter.

Regards
Michael

Upcoming Meetings and Events

17-19th June- Primex Field Days, Casino

06 July- Nambucca River branch meeting, Macksville Ex-Serviceman's Club

20-22nd July- NSW Farmers Association Annual Conference

Primex Field Days

The North Coast's premier Field days will be held in Casino on June 17-19. An invite and a free entry pass has been sent to all Members in the North Coast and Far North Coast regions.

Our site this year will feature WFI Farm Insurance specialists, free hearing tests, Summerland Olives, competitions, and Datamars NLIS Tags. There will also be a free sausage sizzle on Thursday and Friday.

Policy Update

Mining and Petroleum Amendment Bill

Farmers in NSW have had their fundamental legal rights secured in relation to access agreements with mining companies, according to the NSW Farmers' Association. Association President Charles Armstrong says the Association has strongly defended the property rights of farmers since the Mining and Petroleum Amendment Bill was recently introduced into parliament. He said that the Association has ensured that exploration licence conditions relating to access on farms can still be included in an access agreement between the farmers and a mining company. Exploration licences detail the conditions the government places on a mining company relating to access agreements and enables farmers to deny access when these conditions are breached.

If you would like any more information on this bill, please let me know.

Flying Fox netting wanted by farmers too

The NSW Farmers' Association supported the inner city rally calling for the netting of fruit crops against flying foxes. Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore also joined the rally and called for the Government to support fruit netting and for an end to shooting flying foxes under licence. The Association has long been seeking a commitment from the NSW Government to address the perennial issue of flying-fox culling and crop losses in NSW. Under the grant proposed by the Association, the NSW Government would offset about half of the cost of constructing netting meanwhile ongoing liabilities for maintenance and depreciation would be the concern of growers. The cost would be \$2 million a year over 3 years.

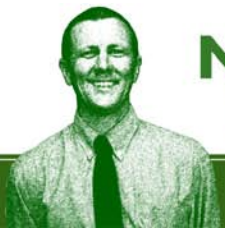
High Court challenge one for all farmers

The Association is supporting Peter Spencer in taking his case further in the High Court on June 16. Association President Charles Armstrong said 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.



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Member benefits update- NAB Agribusiness

The NAB's Agribusiness team on the North Coast and Hunter use their local and industry knowledge to better understand the unique environmental and economic needs of farmers. NAB's flexible range of agribusiness products and services is delivered by listening to and working with customers, to tailor the best packages and advice for their farming businesses. The local NAB Agribusiness team comprises Trish Wilson (Taree), Sarah Boniface (Grafton), Rick Evans (Singleton), Carl Pratten (Singleton), Steve Foxall (Singleton), Scott Beattie (Lismore), and Tony Wall (Lismore). Contact your local NAB branch or me for contact details.

NAB Agribusiness is a major Sponsor of the Association, giving financial support that the Association is keeping down running costs and membership fees. They also offer our Members specialised services and products that assist in running your farm business.

Training

Change announced in Federal Government 2010-11 Budget

The income support for eligible farmers under the Climate Change Adjustment Program and Transitional Income Support has been extended for a further 12 months until the 30/6/2011. The income support is currently up to \$835.40/fortnight for a couple and it is for up to 12 months.

The other components of the scheme are still available including an Advice and Training Grant of up to \$5,500 (GST inclusive) and a CCAP Re-establishment Grant of up to \$150,000 for a farmer who has sold their farming enterprise.

Under the scheme farmers have to obtain a Farm Business Analysis and Financial Assessment, this is paid for under the scheme. For more information on the scheme, please contact me on 65642355 or burtm@nswfarmers.org.au

Contact Us

Michael Burt
Regional Membership Coordinator
North Coast
PO Box 387 Macksville 2447
T (02) 6564 2355 M 0428 228 988
F (02) 6564 2357
E burtm@nswfarmers.org.au

NSW Farmers' Association

Level 25, 66 Goulburn St Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box 1068 Sydney NSW 2000
T 1300 794 000
F (02) 8251 1750
E emailus@nswfarmers.org.au
www.nswfarmers.org.au

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