

# Media Release

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## **Association concerned about by-pass option**

The NSW Farmers' Association acknowledges today's announcement from the Federal Government of the preferred routes for the Tarcutta, Holbrook and Woomargama by-passes, saying it comes after months of delay.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says now landholders have a decision they can plan the way forward, but they and the Association do have some concerns about the routes selected, particularly for Woomargama.

"The preferred route which the Federal Government has announced on the Woomargama by-pass will split 2 major properties, therefore making it extremely difficult to undertake routine agricultural management practices and operate these properties as farming enterprises," Mr Laurie said.

"We will be looking very carefully at this, and questioning why the Government has decided to go with this option despite some community objections," he said.

"We remain very concerned that the State Government and the Roads and Traffic Authority have not provided landholders and businesses with clarity during the 18 month long process for the highway upgrade," he said.

"The NSW RTA needs to ensure there is a better process for dealing with proposed by-passes because the current process causes significant uncertainty which in turn has both emotional and financial impacts on landholders and businesses.

"While we and our Members recognise that in any road construction project there will be landholders that are directly affected, what shouldn't be happening is the continual delays and postponements that we have seen to date in this case," he said.

"Our concern is that landholders are dealt with openly and fairly throughout this process, and we will be working to ensure this happens," Mr Laurie concluded.

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