

Media Release

Wednesday 19 March
PR/000/08



Pork producers look at troubled industry

The future of the local pork industry post Productivity Commission will be the focus of the 2008 NSW Pork Conference in Dubbo on 2 April.

NSW Farmers' Association Pork Industry Committee Chair Dugald Walker says the challenges created by imported pig meat are causing enormous stress on the local industry, and producers are anxious to ensure their future is secured.

"I would love to be able to report a successful year but the fact is that our markets are being flooded by highly subsidised imports which are all but impossible to compete with," Mr Walker said.

"Farmers are completely baffled by the outcomes of the Productivity Commission. We have record levels of imports, those levels have increased by 40 per cent over the past 12 months, we have the lowest price in 5 years for pigs as a result of the oversupply, but the Commission suggests that our problems are the result of high feed grain prices – it doesn't make sense," he said.

Mr Walker says the NSW Pork Conference will cover off on all of these vital issues, but will also look to the future and discuss ways to save Australia's local pork industry.

"We are pleased to have NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie, Australian Pork Limited CEO Andrew Spencer and Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell as guest speakers," Mr Walker said.

"The Conference will also include a free grain management workshop prior to the AGM, with a focus on grain markets and forward buying, both of which are important for producers at this time because they need to be limiting costs as much as possible," Mr Walker concluded.

A produce dinner will be held after the meeting. To register contact the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000, or head to www.nswfarmers.org.au

Contact:

Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

Fast Fact: NSW is the largest producer and exporter of pork and pork products in Australia