

Friday 25 September 2009

PR/166/09

CPRS survey shows farmers' message gaining traction

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed reports this week that the majority of Australians believe the Government should modify its proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) legislation.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong said a Newspan survey found support among voters for the CPRS is falling away.

"The survey indicates that Australians are starting to consider the risks associated with imposing additional costs on our economy before the rest of the world takes action," Mr Armstrong said.

"The survey found that the majority of voters are backing a negotiated revision to the CPRS legislation, rather than force an early election.

"According to the poll, there is also support for delaying an emissions trading scheme beyond Copenhagen in December this year.

"This is very good news for farmers in NSW. This poll indicates that we as an industry are gaining traction: that our message about the possible adverse impacts of the CPRS is starting to get through to voters.

"Our position on the CPRS is clear: we are opposed to the inclusion of food and fibre emissions in the CPRS and to the passage of the legislation prior to implementation of a coordinated international approach.

"Both Mr Rudd and Minister Wong have admitted that failing to have the CPRS passed into legislation before Copenhagen will not materially affect the Government's representations.

"To prevent a threat to food security, agriculture needs to be excluded from the CPRS and we are seeking an even playing field for our farmers compared to other countries.

"We have long spoken about the potential of the CPRS to devastate the agricultural industry, not only reducing the profitability of our farmers, but also destabilising farm finance, investment and property values.

"As a result, we believe the proposed CPRS needs to undergo a thorough re-evaluation. Rushing into the CPRS legislation is not a good idea, and this week's poll has demonstrated that the Australian people are increasingly realising the foolishness of doing so. Perhaps now the Government will too," Mr Armstrong concluded.

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