

Wednesday 23 February 2011

PR/032/11

Only 8 percent of NSW roads accessible by farm freight

A billion dollars is needed to fix the crumbling road network west of the Great Dividing Range to help protect food security in NSW.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong is concerned agricultural areas are missing out, and neglected roads are hampering farmers from delivering produce quickly and efficiently.

"Grain growers in particular have been left with a logistical headache, with only eight percent of the entire NSW road network able to be accessed by many trucks carrying agricultural freight," Mr Armstrong said.

"The amount of freight transported on NSW roads has increased by 65 percent in the past decade, with that figure set to rise.

"A growing global population means farmers are producing more, but their efforts are being stalled by neglected infrastructure," Mr Armstrong said.

This State Election, political parties are being urged to commit a larger slice of the transport funding cake to local councils, to upgrade local roads right across NSW.

The Association is proposing the establishment of a Local Infrastructure Fund, to provide councils with \$1 billion over four years.

In addition, the Association is seeking a commitment to upgrade the Bells Line of Road.

"The Central West is the only region adjacent to Sydney without adequate road access," Mr Armstrong said.

"A four lane expressway would offer a faster and safer alternative to the Great Western Highway across the Blue Mountains," Mr Armstrong said.

The Association is calling on political parties to consider these proposals as part of their State Election agendas, to help grow the agriculture sector in NSW.

For more information go to www.nswfarmers.org.au/state_election

Contact: Olivia Suzanski (Media Adviser) 0429 990 218

Follow us on Twitter @NSWFarmers

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list simply [click here](#) to unsubscribe. If you are having difficulty unsubscribing from this page please email us on media@nswfarmers.org.au and we will remove you from our lists.