

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007



# NEWS

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## Farmers to tackle climate change

The NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference will explore global warming and associated climate change issues this year.

A record number of farmers have booked their places to attend the event at the Sydney Showground from 17 – 19 July and debate these and other big issues affecting NSW agriculture in 2007.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Annual Conference – *Global Warming: Opportunities for Agriculture* will give farmers the opportunity to help determine the way forward for agriculture.

"Whilst the use of the terms global warming and opportunities may strike some as unlikely, we really see many ways in which agriculture can help the rest of NSW contribute to the environment," Mr Laurie said.

Annual Conference will debate more than 80 motions, tackling issues such as Federal peak grains representation, drought assistance, telecommunications, the Genetic Modification moratorium, National Water Management Plans, the environmental benefits of wool over oil and coal and renewable energy incentives.

Keynote speaker Professor Will Steffen of the Australian National University will address the forum on his research interests, including adaptation to global change, particularly in relation to agriculture.

Federal Agriculture Minister, Peter McGauran will also address farmers during the three day event. Mr McGauran will spend the entire day on Wednesday 18 July at the Sydney Showground, meeting with several commodity groups and the Young Farmers Forum.

The Monday night before Annual Conference will also feature a global warming discussion with Nationals MP John Cobb and ALP MP Anthony Albanese.

"It is extremely important the Association has the ear of those decision makers crucial to agriculture and we thank our guest speakers for committing their time to our Annual Conference," Mr Laurie said.

Monday night's global warming discussion will be followed by another new event, with the inaugural Regional Food Fair giving people the chance to taste produce from all over NSW, as prepared by Sydney Chef Jared Ingersoll.

A media briefing event will also be held on the Monday evening before the global warming discussion. All media is welcome.

The NSW Farmer of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year awards will be the highlight of the Annual Conference Dinner on Wednesday 19 July, where the Association's own Mackellar Media Awards will also be presented.

The Conference runs from Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 July and will be held at the Sydney Showground, Hall 2A commencing each day at 8.30 am.

**Contact: Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218**