

PR/223/07

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### Rural Alliance outlines key problems

The *Rural Alliance* has outlined the key issues facing rural NSW to the NSW Government's Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development in Sydney today.

The Rural Alliance consists of the NSW Farmers' Association, NSW Business Chamber, Country Women's Association of NSW, Local Government and Shires Association, Australian Livestock and Property Agent's Association.

NSW Farmers' Association President and Chair of the Rural Alliance Jock Laurie says the *Alliance* has provided a detailed submission to the Inquiry to ensure rural concerns are heard.

"The key issues identified by the *Rural Alliance* include red tape, infrastructure, local government autonomy and the need for an intergovernmental agreement, skilled labour, health and payroll tax," Mr Laurie said.

"Rural NSW provides a significant contribution to the economy in terms of production, employment and related services. The drought is currently having a significant affect on rural and regional communities.

"There are many opportunities and threats facing agriculture in the coming years and the State Government must help steer our industry in the right direction if we are to continue to remain competitive," Mr Laurie said.

The Committee will be conducting public forums in the coming weeks at Tamworth on 5 September, in Narrabri on 6 September, in Leeton on 12 September and Cootamundra on 13 September. Further details on these forums are available from the Committee Secretariat phone (02) 9230 3078.

"The *Rural Alliance* is strongly encouraging rural NSW to get behind this inquiry and ensure the Government hears what our concerns are," Mr Laurie concluded.



Local Government  
Association of NSW



Shires Association  
of NSW



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**Fast fact: 40% of the economic activity in regional & rural NSW is generated by agriculture**