

2008 Annual Conference

30 Years As One Voice

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Ag freight gets products to you

Agricultural freight has been high on the agenda of farmers at the NSW Farmers' Association's Annual Conference today.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says there is concern that current laws need to change to improve freight efficiencies.

"For example, farmers face a number of compliance hurdles and costs when having to adhere to conflicting state based transport regulations when moving produce and machinery across state lines," Mr Laurie said.

"As a result, the Association will lobby the State and Federal Governments to implement the harmonisation of state transport laws and regulations, as recommended at the 2020 Summit, by 1 January 2009," he said.

Farmers have also voted to lobby State and Federal Governments to make agricultural freight a priority on the rail network and at ports.

"Costly and inefficient transport systems negate the country's ability to service growing domestic and international demand," Mr Laurie said.

"Having timely transportation systems in which to move produce from the farm gate to Australian ports is imperative if Australia is going remain competitive on global markets," he said.

"All of these issues come back to ensuring the best practice in transporting the nation's food, fibre and export goods.

"Besides the fact that some certain commodities are very perishable, agricultural produce is a basic staple good that is necessary for human survival, and as such our transportation laws should be as efficient and effective as they can be," Mr Laurie concluded.

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