

Friday 17 July 2009

PR/115/09

## Farmers call for calm on advisory committees

The NSW Farmers' Association has come out in support of Government-appointed primary industries and agricultural Advisory Committees.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says that Advisory Committees serve an essential purpose in bringing together all relevant stakeholders to advise Government on particular issues.

"Advisory Committees such as the Cattle Tick Ministerial Advisory Committee, the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, and the Plague Locust Management Group are essential in managing these issues and preventing them from escalating," Mr Laurie said.

"Committees such as these provide vital management services for all involved in primary industries and have a direct link back to the Minister for Primary Industries; ensuring issues are raised directly with the Government.

"Advisory Committees are the conduit between farmers at the coal-face and Government – without them, farmers would have great difficulty in passing essential information back to the decision-makers," Mr Laurie said.

Mr Laurie's comments come following suggestions today that the NSW Government would review all Government-appointed Advisory Committees with the view of shutting some down.

According to Mr Laurie, such a decision would have serious negative consequences for farmers in NSW.

"Farmers rely on the ability to communicate effectively with the Government in order to continue to farm, and such a decision would seriously hamper the ability of farmers to do so," Mr Laurie concluded.

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