



Dear Central West Members

Annual Conference is almost here and this year everyone can be part of 'Question Time: Meeting the food security challenge' which will be streamed live on our website. Put your view forward around the way Australia deals with food security in the future, by asking the big questions to the panel of experts from the political arena, agriculture, research, environment and corporate Australia who have been selected to participate in this "one-off" forum on 20 July in Sydney. Please contact me if you have a question you would like answered during Question Time!

Many membership renewals are falling due so should you have any questions regarding your membership or have not received your renewal invoice, please contact me on 0427 773 495.

Kind regards, Rachel

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT	COST
Tue 12 th July	7pm	Grenfell	Grenfell DC Meeting	Denise Cunningham 02 6343 3225 Rachel Galvin 0427 773 495	Free
Wed 13 th July	7pm	Parkes	Parkes DC Meeting	Tim Orr 0405 566 234 Rachel Galvin 0427 773 495	Free
Wed 3 rd Aug	8.30am	Alectown	Chemical Card Course	MSC 1300 794 000	Initial - Members \$265 Non-Member \$330 Refresher - Members \$175 Non-Member \$220

POLICY UPDATES

Livestock Loading Survey

The NSW Livestock Welfare Mass Management Accreditation Scheme (LWMMAS) allows livestock carriers with effective mass management systems to access increased mass limits equivalent to Concessional Mass Limits (CML). Unlike the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme mass management accreditation, LWMMAS does not require vehicle mass to be measured for every trip, by using weighbridges, mobile scales or on-board gauges. The LWMMAS allows vehicle mass to be assessed using a loading calculator. The RTA has developed a Livestock Loading Calculator which assesses both vehicle mass and animal welfare loading densities.

Currently, the increased mass limits for LWMMAS operators are only available for combinations with tri-axle groups on all trailers, and the transport of cattle, sheep and pigs. NSW Farmers and the Livestock and Bulk Carriers Association have proposed the LWMMAS be expanded to include a wider range of heavy trucks, including rigid trucks, and trailers with single or tandem axles, and the transport of goats.

Expanding the eligibility will require enhancing the Livestock Loading Calculator to cover additional vehicle and livestock types. To determine if there is sufficient demand for the proposed changes to LWMMAS eligibility, the RTA, supported by the Association, is seeking feedback from livestock carriers and farmers in a survey. More information and the survey can be found at the following link http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/policy_committees/beat/

Foreign buy-ups must be monitored

NSW Farmers' is concerned at the rate of foreign purchases of Australian farmland and water rights, and is calling on the Federal Government to take immediate steps to track all purchases. "Farmers are anxious at reports that the Chinese Government-owned Shenhua Coal is buying out farmland in the Liverpool Plains – while other overseas



Central West
Rachel Galvin

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investors are snapping up their water licences,” President Charles Armstrong said. “Last year we heard reports that \$9 billion worth of agricultural land had been acquired by foreign investors within just two years – but eight months on, nothing has been done to address the issue.’

NSW Farmers’ is calling for the establishment of a Register of Foreign Sovereign and Private Ownership of Australian land, as well as Foreign Ownership of Water Licences. “Foreign companies are able to purchase Australian land up to the value of \$230 million without being scrutinised by the Foreign Investment Review Board,” Charles Armstrong said. “While we don’t oppose foreign investment we are opposed to foreign ownership. We want the Federal Government to ensure the majority of the asset remains in Australian hands to safeguard the nation’s food security”.

Wool bale transport reprieve

Roads Minister Duncan Gay has announced a transport concession which came into effect on July 1, increasing the current maximum wool bale width from 2.5 metres, to 2.7 metres. “We’ve seen a spike in the number of producers and businesses being fined by the RTA as a result of their vehicles being classified as oversize during transport. One transport company we know of has received \$6,500 worth of fines in the past eight months alone,” President Charles Armstrong said.

NSW Farmers’ met with the Government earlier this year to raise concerns on behalf of wool producers, and has applauded the Minister for his speedy action on the issue. “This is a common sense outcome that allows wool bale loads of up to 2.6 metres to be transported without any restrictions. Anything over that will have to display oversize signs, delineators and flashing lights,” Mr Armstrong said. “Signage and flashing lights are a small price to pay compared to the crippling fines producers and transport operators are receiving,” he said. NSW Farmers’ looks forward to continue working with Minister Gay on road transport policies and the development of the National Heavy Vehicle Laws.

INTEREST

Lachlan CMA Photo Competition Open - "Gotta Love the Lachlan"

The Lachlan CMA Photo Competition opened on Monday, 27th June 2011. So why not take a snapshot or look at one you have taken recently and be part of the fun - you may even become a prize winner. Visit the Lachlan CMA [website](#) for an entry form and conditions.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Next Rural – Succession Planning

Next Rural specialises in assisting rural family owned businesses to grow, deal with a crisis, avoid risk and manage transition. Next Rural is widely recognised for its expertise in managing the complexities of family owned businesses and the challenges they face throughout their business life cycle. In order to provide the highest calibre advice, Next Rural have established partnerships and affiliations with major product and service providers such as Grant Thornton, The Recovre Group and Australian Unity. Next Rural has a strong national network of alliances including NSW Farmers. Contact me galvinr@nswfarmers.org.au to obtain further information about how you can benefit from these services to Members.

Contact Us
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