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## Quarantine Review finally gets the green light

NSW Farmers' Association welcomes the Coalition's commitment to a review of Australia's quarantine and bio-security arrangements.

The NSW Farmers' Association views the maintenance of high quarantine standards as one of its priority issues, and President Jock Laurie is pleased to see the issue has been taken seriously at a government level

"Now it appears that whichever major party wins the forthcoming Election, there will be a quarantine review," Mr Laurie said.

NSW Farmers' Association has been lobbying both major parties for such a review for the last two and a half years, and Mr Laurie says farmers are pleased that it will eventually take place.

While Jock Laurie says all Australian's have high expectations of quarantine maintaining quality of life, agricultural industries are at the forefront of efforts to maintain a strong quarantine system.

"Australian farms and their closely related sectors generate \$103billion a year in production – underpinning 12% of GDP. This would be decimated if Australia became infested with pest and disease," Mr Laurie said.

NSW Farmers' Association is also appreciative that the National Farmers' Federation is also now supporting such a review.

The NSW Farmers' Association represents all agricultural industries and is seeking a broad, independent and transparent review.

"The Association believes a review offers a pathway to resolving the quarantine crisis, and ensuring a strategy for the future," Mr Laurie said.

"The Association looks forward to working with the next Government following the 24 November Election, to finalise details of the review," Mr Laurie concluded.

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***Fast fact: In most cases less than a third, of what a consumer pays for fruit and vegetables at the supermarket goes back to the farmers that grew that produce, the rest goes to the 'middle men'***