

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007



NEWS

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Annual Conference kicks off for 2007

Farmers at the NSW Farmers' Association's Annual Conference have this morning passed two Urgency Motions relating to a crisis in higher education, and the need for a Grain Harvest Management Scheme.

The issues kick started the Conference, and saw 400 farmers from around the State agree there is a crisis in higher education enrolment in NSW that needs to be addressed.

President of the NSW Farmers' Association Jock Laurie says the Association has agreed to seek sponsorship from major agribusiness companies for targeted student support.

"We will also map out a plan to seek a waiver on relevant fees, such as HECS for the first year of study in agriculture and related courses.

"We will lobby the Federal Government to re-classify the HECS and FE- HELP banding for agriculture and related course to bring them into line with other disciplines facing enrolment challenges, thereby making it cheaper for people to study Agriculture.

Mr Laurie says the second motion was in view of a number of grain growers being sent court notices for alleged mass breaches under chain of responsibility legislation.

"Delegates have agreed that the Association needs to urgently endeavor to bring in a Grain Harvest Management Scheme in NSW.

"Such a scheme would provide mass tolerance for grain trucks given the variability in grain weight," Mr Laurie concluded.

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NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference will be web cast from 8:30am – 5:30pm Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 July 2007. Visit www.nswfarmers.org.au for details.

Fast Fact: Over a 13 year period prices received by Australian farmers increased by 2.3% a year, while costs increased by 4.8%