

# FARM VOICE



by  
**Shaughn  
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NSW Farmers'  
Association

**2008 is quickly drawing to a close. Whilst I know it is a physical impossibility for time to go faster, it certainly does appear to be so to me. Hence, it must also be difficult for many Members and their families during the continuing and devastating drought that a large proportion of the State continues to be affected by. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those families during this time and it is hoped that the promised rains will eventually come (as they must).**

Your Executive Councillors will be meeting in late October to continue debating policy and consider issues that affect the Association and its Membership. Those motions from Annual Conference are in the process of being implemented and any that were not heard

will be finalised at this Executive Council Meeting. Implementation schedules for most motions may be viewed on the Association's website and I encourage all Members to look at those motions that they have an interest in. As an apolitical lobbying organisation, policy underpins the direction and decisions that are made by the President, your Board and elected officers. It certainly does drive the direction that the staff take, as well as the direction that we receive from you the Members of the Association. It was pleasing to see the success of the lobbying campaign with respect to the Driver Fatigue Regulations but the issue has not gone away and the debate must continue between the Association and the Government. It will be done

In this edition of the Farm Post I have included the submissions (see below) that the Association has made to external bodies and Government (both Federal and State) since the beginning of the year. This does not include the correspondence, meetings and discussions that your elected officers have with representatives of different organisations. In total your Association has submitted 31 submissions. These range across the broad spectrum of major issues affecting regional and rural New South Wales, and farming

communities generally.

I have also listed in this edition of Farm Post those briefing notes that are prepared by staff within the Policy area that provide guidance and information regarding issues affecting the Association and its Members (See page 11). I encourage you to look at the list and if any of the issues affect you, then to go to our website and to download or read the information contained in them. This is an important part of the Association's day-to-day activities. But it is only part.

We undertake a wide range of other activities, ranging from the Regional Service Network and attendance at Field Days, through to updating the website with up-to-date information that is of relevance to the Membership generally.

That is why it is important to belong to your Association. That is why it is important that you encourage your friends and colleagues to join and be part of your Association. That is why it is necessary for us to work together, united with one voice against those matters as detailed in the attached listing of submissions that I have provided in this edition of the Farm Post.

The future of your Association remains strong and on a solid footing. The recent volatile markets has caused concern to your Board but I can assure you that it is being

reviewed continuously and monitored closely by our Board who you have given carriage of the Association to. Education, involvement of Young Farmers, and being united, are all issues that we need to confront in the coming months and years. I look forward to providing further information to you with respect to these issues.

I encourage you to use the facilities that your Association offers and you will shortly be provided, for instance, with a Question and Answer facility on the front page of your website. This will enable us to gauge your position on many issues confronting agriculture in New South Wales. We will look at making it easier for you to join your Association and remain a Member through such options as automatic annual renewals and quarterly payments of your Membership fee. These are but a few of the many issues that the Association is currently reviewing. If you have any issues that you wish to raise with me, or your Association, then I encourage you to contact me by telephone or email, or to discuss any matter with the President of the Association, Jock Laurie.

**Until next time.  
Kind regards  
Shaughn Morgan**

## Rainy day fundraiser

**A recent fundraiser for the Rainy Day charity in Bondi raised over \$1,100 for drought-affected regional communities, as part of the week-long event Taste Orange at Bondi.**

The fundraising breakfast, attended by NSW Minister for Primary Industries and Patron of Rainy Day, the Hon. Ian Macdonald, and supported by NSW Farmers' Association, featured food and cider from the Central West region.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie said some parts of NSW have been experiencing drought for up to eight years, with a massive impact on families and rural communities.

"It is vital that people living in cities have

some sort of understanding and empathy for the people coping with drought," Mr Laurie said.

"Rainy Day fundraisers like this one not only help raise much-needed funds for our drought-affected farmers, but also help bridge the gap that often exists between rural and urban NSW.

Rainy Day is a fundraising initiative formed by a group of young professionals, predominately Sydney residents originally from the country, to address the plight of drought-affected farming families, with the dual aim of raising awareness and funds.

NSW Farmers' Association is an official supporter of Rainy Day



NSW Farmers' Association representatives David Moffitt, Guy Hannan and Chief Executive Shaughn Morgan with Rainy Day committee members Rachel Lenehan and Trudy Glasgow.

## Completed Association Submissions – 2008

ORGANISATION CONDUCTING INQUIRY/REVIEW	TOPIC OF INQUIRY/REVIEW	DATE
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Model to Assess the Relative Humanness of Pest Animal Control Methods	January 2008
Productivity Commission	Comments on Draft Report - Assessing Local Government Revenue Raising Capacity	January 2008
Horticulture Code Committee	Mandatory Horticulture Code of Conduct	January 2008
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	Country of Origin Labelling Requirements for Unpackaged Pork Products (Application a583)	February 2008
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet	Sale of NSW Electricity assets	February 2008
Productivity Commission	Safeguards Inquiry into the import of Pigmeat.	February 2008
Western Lands Commissioner	Western Lands Act 1901 Review	February 2008
State Council of the Rural Lands Protection Boards	Rural Lands Protection Boards Review	March 2008
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Inquiry into the Competitiveness of Retail Prices for Standard Groceries	March 2008
Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries	Inquiry into the Implications for Australian Farmers of the Pricing and Supply Arrangements in Australian and Global Chemical and Fertiliser Markets and Related Matters	March 2008
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee	Inquiry into the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008	April 2008
Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry	Quarantine and Biosecurity Review	April 2008
Commissioner for Commission of Inquiry into Equine Influenza	Inquiry into Equine Influenza Exposure Recommendations	April 2008
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts	Inquiry into the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Communications Fund) Bill 2008	April 2008
NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities	Inquiry into Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities: Key Issues for Further Investigation)	April 2008
Animal Health Australia	Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals Land Transport of Livestock Public Consultation Draft	May 2008
Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry	Arguments for a statutory agency for quarantine – particularly a statutory authority with a governing board	May 2008
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Water Market Rules Issues Paper	May 2008
NSW Department of Water and Energy	Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Draft Water Sharing Plan	May 2008
NSW Department of Planning	Proposed Upper Nepean (Kangaloon) Borefield (Application 06_0331)	May 2008
Coroner, Muswellbrook Magistrate's Chambers	Child Drownings in Private Dams	June 2008
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Public Submission on Horticulture Code	June 2008
Board of Studies New South Wales	Science and Technology Writing Brief	June 2008
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy	Regulatory Issues Associated with the National Broadband Network	June 2008
Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy	Broadband Solutions for Remote Areas	June 2008
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal	Draft Report – Review of State Taxation	July 2008
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Water Charge Rules for Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Issues Paper	July 2008
Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts	Comments on draft environmental assessment of the suitability of import of the Savannah Cat into Australia	July 2008
Department for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Expert Social Panel	Assessment of the social impacts of drought and related government and non-government social support services	August 2008
Australian Advisory Council on Intellectual Property	Review of Enforcement of Plant Breeder's Rights Options Paper	August 2008
Senate Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport	Inquiry into Water Management in the Coorong and Lower Lakes	September 2008

