

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007



# NEWS

PR/199/07

Wednesday 18 July, 2007.

## Farmers Clear on what they want from carbon markets

Farmers from around NSW have raised concerns in relation to the Prime Minister's task group on emissions trading recommendations, and laid out their preferences under an Australian carbon market.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says farmers canvassed the varying opinions on issues such as carbon sequestration and carbon market design principles at the Association's Annual Conference this morning.

"As an industry, agriculture is often divided on this issue, however one of the main points of this year's Conference was to create debate about the way forward," Mr Laurie said.

"Delegates have voted for the Association to call on the State and Federal Government to ensure that under a carbon market no compensation would be paid to the energy sector, as indicated in the carbon market model recommended by the Prime Minister's task group.

"Importantly, delegates also pushed for any carbon credits created on farmland to not be nationalised, but to remain the property of farmers," Mr Laurie said.

"Agriculture is the only sector to have made a significant contribution to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emission, with more than %40 reductions from 1990 levels. There are concerns that this hasn't been recognised, and farmers are concerned that it must be in any future market," Mr Laurie said.

Delegates also passed a motion to lobby for comprehensive research into identifying and quantifying agricultural systems ability to sequester carbon, including in soil.

"We would also like to see research funded into the value of agricultural sequestration in a carbon market. On that note though, delegates firmly voted to oppose any attempt to apply a carbon tax on agriculture," Mr Laurie said.

The Association will also lobby Government to pursue a wide range of policy avenues for addressing climate change, including more flexible environmental and natural resource legislation.

"There is a concern amongst some farmers that approaches to climate change need to be multi pronged so that no-one is disadvantaged," Mr Laurie said.

"Essentially, farmers are telling us that we need more research and development, and investment in technology, There is so much detail needed for our industry, and currently it's being left out because of that complexity.

"It was positive to hear the Federal Minister for Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran at Conference today, as he reassured us agriculture will be included by his Government, so we will wait and see," Mr Laurie concluded.

**Contact: Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218  
Amanda Barwick (nee Frame) (Media Manager) 0428 400 736**