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A significant step forward for regional growth

A new book launched this week is a significant step forward in reform of Australia's federal system to make sure rural and regional Australia will grow and prosper into the 21st century.

NSW Farmers' Association former President and Chairman of OZ Reform - A better system of Government by 2020 Mal Peters says this is the first time such a wide cross-section of experts and real-world policy practitioners have come together to compare the governance challenges facing Australia.

"The book is vital reading for those concerned about regional Australia's future and follows a recent symposium at Parliament house in Sydney organised by NSW Farmers' Association," Mr Peters said.

In acknowledging the contribution of various experts in the book, NSW Farmers' Association President, Mr Jock Laurie said that it's time to stop buck passing between Federal, State and Regional Governments.

"We must stop the buck-passing and blame game that so often paralyses our federal system, and stop trying to compensate for the inadequacies of state governments by letting the federal government take more power, when so much of the solution lies in empowering regional communities to do more for themselves," Mr Laurie said.

"It is vital reading for politicians, policy makers and all those public servants who are toiling to make life better for all Australians, but who are restricted by the dysfunctional government structures through which they are forced to try to work," Mr Laurie said.

To facilitate the reform agenda, the NSW Farmers' Association will host "The Economic and Financial benefits of Federal Reform Project Development Workshop" with Griffith University at its Sydney head office in November.

"The project aims to seek Australian Research Council support and other external funding to establishing the economic and financial case for political devolution to benefit regional areas", Mr Laurie concluded.

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Fast fact: Farmers spend more than \$1.1 billion on weed prevention & \$900 million on soil-related activities