

8 November 2007

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

online@nswfarmers.org.au

Armidale Meet the Candidates forum tonight

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging farmers in the New England region to attend a 'Meet the Federal Candidates' forum in Armidale tonight, Thursday 8 November.

All Candidates for the New England seat have been invited to put their policies forward at the forum, including Independent Tony Windsor, the Nationals Phil Betts, the Greens Bruce Taylor, the Australian Labor Party's Luke Brand, Citizens Electoral Council's Richard Witten, and One Nation's Brian Dettman.

The forum will be held at the Ex Services Club from 7- 9.30pm. For more information contact Gennie Gittoes on 6766 9949.

Early Christmas present farmers could do without

The NSW Farmers' Association says the decision by the Reserve Bank of Australia to increase interest rates to 6.75% will have a massive impact on farming families already under great stress. [Click here](#) for more.

NSW farmers rely on Live Exports

NSW Farmers' Association says live export trade is critical to producers in this State and any threat to its future would be disastrous.

President Jock Laurie has congratulated Federal Minister for Agriculture Peter McGauran on his support for the industry, following the weekend's debate on ABC TV's Landline program between Mr McGauran and the Opposition's Agriculture spokesperson, Senator Kerry O'Brien. [Click here](#) for more information.

To see the Landline transcript [click here](#).

Fixed water charges must be waived

The NSW Farmers' Association Drought Taskforce has identified fixed water charges as a critical issue facing drought stricken irrigators and the communities that they support.

President Jock Laurie says the Association believes that it's inequitable that a wholly government owned agency is able to demand payment of fixed charges during the most severe drought in history, when entitlement holders are receiving zero or severely reduced allocations. [Click here](#) for more.

Association fights climate change

The Association will push for the agricultural industry to be at the forefront of any action to address changing climatic conditions and increased climate variability.

Meeting last week in Sydney, the NSW Farmers' Association's Executive Council passed a motion accepting that Australia's climate is continuously changing, and that evidence suggest it's changing at a faster rate, whilst becoming more variable. [Click here](#) for more.

Association supports DPI eradication of Equine Influenza

The Association's Executive Council voted overwhelmingly to support the NSW Department of Primary Industry's (DPI's) efforts to eradicate Equine Influenza before it is allowed to become endemic. [Click here](#) for more.

Call for members to provide feedback on Constitution review

The NSW Farmers' Association's Constitutional Review Taskforce has undertaken a review of the Association's Constitution to bring it into the 21 Century by making it plain English and ensure it complies with relevant legislation and regulations.

The Taskforce is seeking feedback from Members, along with any further matters that would improve the operation of the Association before it reports to Executive Council in March 2008.

Please [click here](#) to review the Constitution, read the revised plain English version or give feedback and suggestions.

Rural Wage Guide

The Industrial Association is receiving a number of queries from members regarding the recent wage increases contained in the Rural Wage Guide 57.

These rates apply to unincorporated businesses such as sole traders and partnerships only, which the Association estimates is approximately 80-90% of members.

The rates for incorporated businesses are available separately at www.iressentials.com.au or by contacting the Industrial Association on 1300 794 000.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Rural Wage Guide rates.

Association training courses

For information about training, dates and locations, please email training@nswfarmers.org.au. Please note that registration in Chemical Card or Senior First Aid is required 7 days prior to the workshop date to allow for delivery of home study materials.

Upcoming Region Specific Meetings & Events

Region 1 – North West

13 Nov - Wee Waa - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm

14 Nov - Pilliga - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm

17 Nov - Inverell - Goat Field Day, from 9am at the Inverell Showground

20 Nov - Inverell - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm

21 Nov - Ashford - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm

For more information contact [Alicia Wilson](#) on 6766 9946

Region 2 – New England

8 Nov – Armidale - 'Meet the Candidates' forum Ex Services Club. 7-9.30pm

14 Nov – Legume - Weeds Identification Day. Legume Hall 10-3pm. In conjunction with DPI.

1 Dec – Wollomombi - Farm Family Gathering BBQ lunch and entertainment (FREE). Great chance to have a Community get together before Christmas.

For more information call Regional Service Manager Gennie Gittoes on 0429180560

Region 3 – Central and North West

9 Nov- Rylstone - Community drought buster event. Globe Hotel, 3pm. Contact David on 6379 1383

4 Dec- Dubbo – Farm Succession Planning- 9 to 4.00pm Contact Robyn 6884 8822

For more information contact [Rick Bremner](#) on 6845 3842

Region 4 – Lower New England and Liverpool Plains

For more information contact [Darren Greentree](#) on 0427 411 214

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

9 Nov - Rylstone Droughtbuster evening 4pm

16 -17 Nov – Mudgee - Carbon Farming Expo Conference, Australian Rural and Education Centre. 9.00am — 5.00pm. For more information phone Louisa Kiely on 02 6374 0329 or email: louisa@carboncoalition.com.au.

9 Dec - Orange - Family drought day. Buses to be arranged from Condo, Grenfell, Oberon, Cowra & Wellington.

For more information contact [Graham Blatch](#) on 6366 9104.

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

8-9 Nov – Camden - Dairy Symposium. Contact: Angus Gidley Baird 1300 794 000

9-10 Nov – Clarendon - Small Farm Expo. Contact: Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

13 Nov – Vineyard - Hawkesbury Horticulture Branch Meeting, 7pm start. Contact Joe Danastasi 0418 210 547

3 Dec – Cobbitty - Camden Horticulture Branch Meeting, 5.30 pm tour of Uni Sydney PBI followed by 7.30pm meeting. Contact Glenn Fahey 0408 426 061

3 Dec– Pokolbin - Farm succession planning, NSW Farmers' Association Training PH: 6884 8822

For more information on Region 7 events contact Regional Services Manager [Frances Vella](#) on 0428 228 818

Region 8 – Lower Central West and Slopes

For more information on any events in Region 8 contact RSM [Geoff Knight](#) on 6369 1701

Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee

22 Nov (TBC) - Griffith DC - Drought Assistance Meeting. Griffith Exies 8pm

For more information on any events in Region 9 contact [Ben Poynter](#) on 6962 9926

Region 10 - Southern Central

15 Nov – Junee – DPI women's pamper day, St Lukes Church, RSVP essential to Lorraine 6924 1825.

1 Dec – Coolamon – drought gathering, featuring Graham Connors, local Coolamon shire residents welcome.

For information on any events in Region 10 contact RSM [Deb Charlton](#) on 6922 9297.

Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro, South Coast

15 Nov – Bombala – Chemical Card Training

19 Nov- Bega - Free Workcover 'Managing for Safety' workshop, 9.30am-2.00pm

30 Nov- Queanbeyan - Free Workcover 'Managing For Safety', 9.30am-2.00pm

For more information visit the Region 11 Webpage or contact Liz Young on 6453 7111.

Region 12- Western Division

14 Nov – Bourke - Climate Change Forum. For more information call the Western CMA on 0268 722 144.

17 Nov - Hatfield Hall - Grease Lightning Ball. For ticket sale or inquires please contact Amber Croft on 03) 50206873.

30 Nov - Oxley/Booligal Branch Meeting/Farm Family Gathering at the Booligal Hall, 3:30pm. For more information call Helen Morphett on (02) 69 938 157. Farm Family Gathering at the Booligal Pub, with food provided by Danny Byrnes, Drought Support Worker. "Drinks on us" complements of NSWFA for part of the evening.

For more information contact Regional Service Manager [Dougall Roberts](#) on 0428 411 221.

Region 13 – North Coast

12 Nov- Wauchope, Chem Card Course, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

19 Nov – Casino - Free Financial Skills Workshops for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

20 Nov – Grafton - Free Financial and Business Skills Training for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

21 Nov – Wauchope - Free Financial Skills Workshops for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

22 Nov – Kempsey Chemical Card

For information on any events in Region 13 contact RSM [Michael Burt](#) on 6564 2355
