

PR/175/07

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Inquiry into NSW agriculture needed

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the announcement that the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development will conduct an inquiry into various aspects of agriculture in NSW.

President of the NSW Farmers' Association Jock Laurie says the inquiry is very welcome as it will give a clear indication of the best way forward in NSW.

"This inquiry will look at the impediments to the growth of agriculture as well as some initiatives which could be implemented to address these impediments.

"The Association will be making a submission to this Inquiry and the Standing Committee is due to report to the Parliament by mid December 2007," Mr Laurie said.

"Agriculture is an important sector and it contributes \$20 billion to the NSW economy whilst generating \$10 billion in exports."

"Agriculture provides more than 10% of the State's overall employment and it is directly responsible for up to 40% of the economic activity which occurs across rural and regional NSW," he said.

"We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this inquiry, and would encourage all interested groups to also make a submission," Mr Laurie concluded.

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Fast fact: 92% of farmers have environmental programs