

PR/27207

Monday 5 November, 2007.

NSW farmers rely on Live Exports

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

Mr 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.

"Mr McGauran is 100% correct in saying that the live export trade provides Australian farmers with valuable additional markets, and we would support all moves to secure its future," Mr Laurie said.

The NSW Farmers' Association, through peak industry organisations, the Sheepmeats Council of Australia and the Cattle Council of Australia, have worked to ensure Australia has the best standards in the world and that animal welfare is the number one priority of the live export trade.

"Farmers in NSW are committed to the care of livestock and meeting the genuine expectations of the community," Mr Laurie said.

It is estimated that the live export of sheep, cattle and goats provides a \$1.8 billion contribution to the Australian economy.

"The live export industry is crucial to farmers in NSW as well as to the broader community and it is therefore important this industry is retained," Mr Laurie said.

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

Fast fact: Australia produces around 381,839 tonnes of lamb and 243,789 tonnes of mutton the gross value of which including live sheep exports is estimated at \$2.1 billion