

Dear Members

The news that the Federal Government will exclude agricultural emissions from the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is something for which we can feel a deal of success. After all, we have been pushing quite strongly for exactly this, and the opportunity to create and claim credits for carbon sequestration.



However, we maintain a major degree of caution because we haven't seen any details yet, and it is these details that will make a difference. We will need to watch the development of this detail, particularly the concept of credits very carefully.

Another positive announcement from the NSW Government is welcomed. NSW has referred its Industrial Relations powers to the Commonwealth. This means as of 1 January 2011 NSW State Awards will no longer exist.

This is a significant change for farmers and rural business as it removes antiquated State differences and reduces the confusion associated with determining which award covers workers.

This is a particular win for Members, so if you know someone who isn't a Member, perhaps you should point this out! For details, check out our IR website, www.iressentials.com.au.

I managed to meet with our new Primary Industries Minister, Tony Kelly, the day after his appointment. We have of course had a previous relationship with him under the Lands portfolio, and our initial discussions in his new capacity have proven friendly and open. He will be opening Oysters in the House in Sydney for us this Thursday, so I look forward to further discussions. If you can, do come [along](#).

Lastly, just a note to encourage ongoing caution regarding bushfires. For those in the Central West region, the hot and dry conditions have resulted in several fires, and with hot conditions set to return later this week, everyone should be very careful. As the latest drought figures show, 73.6% of NSW is drought declared, and only 1.9% is considered satisfactory, giving us all plenty to be concerned about without adding fire to the mix. Take care.

Until next fortnight,
Charles Armstrong

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