

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007



NEWS

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NSW Farmers tackle code issues at Horticulture AGM

The NSW Farmers' Association Horticulture AGM will be held next week, featuring presentations from the ACCC on the Horticulture Code of Conduct.

Chair of the NSW Farmers' Association's Horticulture Committee Peter Darley says the presentations will focus on some of the implementation issues industry has come up against since the introduction of the Code in May this year.

"John Martin, the ACCC Commissioner charged with overall responsibility for the Code, will speak on enforcement and compliance issues related to contracts such as backdating, erroneous merchant clauses and so called loyalty bonuses which have surfaced in agreements over the past few months," Mr Darley said.

The Code has also served to highlight the need for growers to join forces and consolidate their bargaining power, and Scott Gregson (also from the ACCC) will outline the new authorisation provisions for collective bargaining arrangements under the Trade Practices Act.

"These provisions have been developed to allow for greater ease of use for small businesses to seek better trading conditions such as price or terms of trade which are far more achievable in a consolidated group situation. Potato growers in Victoria have recently been granted authorisation to deal with processors and wholesalers using this instrument," Mr Darley said.

Growers will also hear from Nick Moraitis, Chairman and CEO of Moraitis Holdings and Kris Netwon, CEO of Horticulture Australia.

"Resolutions to be debated at the AGM cover issues from environmental flow management through to calls for a tightening of merchant definitions in the Code of Conduct," Mr Darley concluded.

The meeting is to be held on Monday 16 July from 10.00am to 5.00pm at the Novotel Olympic Park Freshwater 2 Room. Please contact the Association on 1300 794 000 if you wish to attend. This year the NSW Farmers' Association will webcast Annual Conference live for interested groups and the media. You will find the webcast link on the front page at www.nswfarmers.org.au

Contact: Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference will be webcast from 8:30am – 5:30pm Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 July 2007. Visit www.nswfarmers.org.au for details

Fast Fact: Salinity occurs naturally in many areas of NSW with high levels of soluble salts stored in the soil and ground water