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## **Horticulture Code advice good for industry**

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of a horticulture code advisory committee.

NSW Farmers' Association Horticulture Committee Chair Peter Darley says the committee's role will be to provide policy advice relevant to the Code to Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Peter McGauran.

Mr Darley says it was pleasing to see that the committee was made up of suitably experienced representatives of different sectors of the industry directly affected by the Code.

"The committee members will have a key role in addressing some of the implementation issues which have arisen since the Code's introduction just over five months ago," Mr Darley said.

"These issues include trading arrangements with packhouses and marketing groups, pooling and price averaging and buyers' agents.

"There has also been concern about arriving at workable terms of trade and produce agreements which are Code compliant and appropriate promotion and education of industry regarding the Horticulture Mediation Advisor, who is the contact for all inquiries under the Code relating to mediation.

"Members have also asked that there be more active enforcement of the Code by the ACCC.

"We look forward to providing input to the committee and playing our part to ensure the Code is workable and effective in producing a functional market environment for our industry," Mr Darley concluded.

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***Fast fact: The Freshest Australia horticulture chemical residue testing program shows a compliance rate of 98% nationally.***