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Airport money can solve frustrations

The NSW Farmers' Association is concerned by recent public calls for quarantine restrictions at Sydney Airport to be eased to make tourists less frustrated upon arrival.

NSW Farmers' Association Quarantine Committee Chair Peter Carter says if this is such an issue, the airport corporation should look into investing funds into making systems more efficient.

"If there are issues about the amount of time it takes for people to move through quarantine there are several things that can be done," Mr Carter said.

"For instance, better infrastructure to make the system faster, as well as negotiating with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for more inspectors at the airports expense. Either way there can be no question of easing our quarantine restrictions" Mr Carter said.

"Quarantine conducted at our borders protects a gross value of agriculture production in NSW of over \$8.5 billion which generates \$5.1 billion in value adding to the economy and includes \$1.5 billion in exports from NSW," Mr Carter said.

"A pest or disease outbreak will wipe out export markets and make products more expensive and less competitive," he said.

"The farming community will not tolerate increasing the risk of outbreaks any further, and I would think we would have the support of the majority of the general population in this.

"It is incredible that the Commission of inquiry into the outbreak of equine influenza is in progress, yet suggestions of allowing greater risk are even being raised," Mr Carter concluded.

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Fast Fact - Agriculture is directly responsible for up to 40 per cent of the economic activity across regional and rural NSW