

## Closure of DPI Research Stations

### Issue

The NSW Farmers Association (the 'Association') is concerned that as part of the NSW Mini Budget which was delivered on 11 November 2008 the Government announced that over the next three years it will be consolidating the following centres of the DPI:

Location	Centre	Area of research
<b>Alstonville</b>	Research Station	NSW Centre for Tropical Horticulture
<b>Berry</b>	District Office	N/A
<b>Condobolin</b>	Research Station	Large scale low rainfall farming systems research
<b>Glen Innes</b>	Research Station	Centre for Perennial Grazing Systems
<b>Gosford</b>	Centre of Excellence	Market Access and Greenhouse Horticulture.
<b>Griffith</b>	Research Station	Griffith Centre for Irrigated Agriculture
<b>Jindabyne</b>	Garden Trout Hatchery	N/A
<b>Temora</b>	Research Station	National Variety Trials – Wheat, Barley, Oats

### Background

DPI research stations undertake valuable and independent research activities in order to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture in NSW. At the same time, these research stations provide an important contribution to their local communities through employment as well as the ability for their facilities to be used by stakeholders.

Some of the research stations which are due to be closed currently undertake extremely specific research for particular sectors of the NSW agricultural industry and therefore the Association is concerned about how the research needs of these sectors will be serviced if the stations are closed. The Association is urging the NSW Government to provide details on its future plans for the research projects currently being undertaken as well as how the future research needs of agriculture in NSW will be fulfilled from a Government perspective.

The Government has established a number of Committees which were scheduled to report back to the Government with options for the research stations by 31 March 2009 or earlier. The aim of each Committee is to:

- Identify and analyse solutions and options in consultation with industry and community for the future of the NSW DPI sites; and
- Develop options to reduce operating costs and proposals for the future of the sites including exploration of opportunities and proposals for further cross-industry investment.

### Current Existing Policy - Agricultural Research

#### AC 2008

*That the Association support and advocate a five-fold increase in agricultural research expenditure within five years.*

#### AC 2008

*That the Association lobby to have both State and Federal Government funding programs run in cycles that allow for the completion of program targets.*

#### AC 2004

*That the Association oppose the erosion of services, particularly research and extension to agriculture, and lobby:*

- against reduction of local extension and other regionally based staff within NSW Agriculture;*
- against closure of any research stations without adequate justification and acceptable alternative means of delivering research and development.*