

Dear Member



The 2010 Annual Conference was a great success, as those of you who were selected to attend as delegates will attest. For the wider Membership, we look forward to pursuing the motions on your behalf and reporting back to you on our progress over the coming twelve months. You will see a full list of carried motions from the Annual Conference in the August edition of Farm Post.

At Conference, we saw Premier Kristina Keneally, NSW Minister for Primary Industries Steve Whan, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Security, Fisheries and Forestry John Cobb and NSW Leader of the Opposition Barry O'Farrell and speaking directly to delegates.

The Premier announced \$18.5million for the locust campaign. John Cobb committed to a \$2million audit of green tape and a Senate Inquiry into Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. Barry O'Farrell announced a commitment to "fix the problem" in relation to just terms compensation for acquisition of property.

Of particular interest, also, was the keynote address provided by Professor George Williams.

His understanding in the legislative arena of property rights provided much insight into our cause. It must be made clear, however, that his address is his opinion and is independent of the Association.

### **Property Rights – where do we stand?**

I have had conversations with a number of our Members in recent days concerned by a comment made in *The Land* by Professor Williams last week and an apparent contradiction in the Association's stance on property rights. As mentioned above, Professor Williams' comments are his own.

Contrary to what some may have heard, the Association is financially and legally supporting the Peter Spencer case in the High Court.

We are in the business of ensuring property rights for farmers and intervening in Peter Spencer's case is one way to progress the property rights of our Members.

Unless the property rights of farmers are recognised and given some sanctity, farmers will not be confident to invest in the industry because the risk is too great.

We will continue to gather academic, legal and grassroots comment on property rights, as well as continuing to fight for property rights through the courts, the media and the halls of parliament.

## **Murray - Darling Basin Survey**

In the meantime, we are busily collating your views on the Murray- Darling Basin Plan via an online survey. And we need your help! We've had some fantastic feedback from Members that will help us articulate the potential impacts of the Murray Darling Basin Plan on farmers and rural communities.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan will have serious implications for all Members within the Basin. It will include limits on the amount of water that can be extracted for consumptive uses (including agriculture), as well as new rules about the trading of water within the Basin.

Please help us by completing the survey, which should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete. You can find the survey [here](#).

Until next week,  
Charles Armstrong

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