

PR/221/07

Friday 24 August, 2007.

Inquiry should guide land use for all NSW

The NSW Farmers' Association endorses the key recommendations from the Central West land use planning inquiry, and says they should be used across NSW.

Chair of the Associations Land Use Planning Taskforce, Liz Tomlinson, says that it was particularly pleasing that the inquiry panel supported the Association's views that planning decisions should be made at a local level using local information, data and consultation.

"We are also pleased that the panel took into account our support for increased education and awareness measures to prevent future land use conflict occurring," she said.

"The recommendation that Council determined minimum lot sizes should be retained and dwelling entitlements be preserved is fully supported. The Association looks forward to the introduction of a State Environmental Planning Policy for rural lands to provide certainty on these issues," Mrs Tomlinson said.

Mrs Tomlinson says that the establishment of the inquiry was an important step given the increased competition for rural land in the area.

"The inquiry has important relevance to other rural areas within the state and its recommendations should be viewed in that regard," Mrs Tomlinson said.

"Land use planning is becoming more prevalent for all farmers and farming communities as competition for land intensifies and Government's control over what farmers do on their land increases," she said.

"The Association looks forward to the implementation of the inquiry's recommendations by the respective Ministers for Planning and Primary Industries, Frank Sartor and Ian Macdonald," Mrs Tomlinson concluded.

The NSW Farmers' Association lodged an extensive submission to the inquiry and was represented on the inquiry panel by President Jock Laurie.

Contact: Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

Fast fact: Farmers in the Western Region won the 2006 NSW Premier's Public Sector award for conservation work