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Parliament in Review

The NSW Parliament's legislative agenda for the spring session includes laws on breastfeeding and daylight saving. Legislation introduced included: Anti-Discrimination (Breastfeeding) Bill 2007 which will outlaw discrimination against breastfeeding mothers; Housing Amendment (Community Housing Providers) Bill 2007 which will protect the interests of current and future community housing tenants and users and encourage potential investors from the private sector; Trade Measurement Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 which will facilitate the establishment of uniform trade measurement laws across Australia and Partnership Amendment (Venture Capital) Bill 2007 which will encourage innovation through creation of tax exemptions for venture capitalists. The Daylight Saving Bill will synchronise the commencement and finalisation of daylight saving in Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Tasmania. The Bill was supported by the Government and the Liberal Party and opposed by the NSW Nationals and some country independent MPs.

State Parliamentary inquiries of interest to the Association are:

- Inquiry into Broadband in rural and regional communities
- Inquiry into Natural Resource Management (Climate Change)

Federal Election Called

On Sunday 14 October 2007 the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, accepted the advice of the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, for an election to be held on Saturday 24 November. Federal Parliament was then prorogued by the Governor-General under Section 5 of the Constitution from 12 noon on Monday 15 October 2007 until Saturday 24 November 2007. In accordance with convention, immediately before noon, the proclamation was read in front of the main entrance at Parliament House.

Deputy Prime Minister Opens NSWFA Offices

The Hon Mark Vaile MP, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, officially opened the Association's new head offices in Sydney on Thursday 18 October 2007. Andrew Stoner MP, NSW Leader of the Nationals and Pru Goward MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Environment represented the State Opposition. A number of industry dignitaries attended the official opening including the NSW Director-General of Primary Industries, Mr Barry Buffier and the President of the Royal Agricultural Society, Mr Rob Vickery.

Final ruling on agricultural managed investment schemes released

The Australian Tax Office released the final ruling on the income tax treatment of registered agricultural managed investment schemes. The ATO ruling follows consideration of comments on the draft ruling and confirms the Tax Office's reconsidered view that investor contributions are capital in nature and therefore not deductible. This ruling will apply to arrangements entered into from 1 July 2008, to align with the end of the transitional period announced by the Commissioner in March 2007.

Further Information:

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Information on the Parliaments can be found on their internet pages:

Federal Parliament: www.aph.gov.au

NSW Parliament: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au