

## HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

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## NSW FARMERS' ASSOCIATION HORTICULTURE STAFF

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## Dear Horticulture Members,

Please find below the May update from the Association concerning Horticulture issues currently being dealt with by the Committee and Policy Staff.

At this time we invite all Horticulture Members to participate in the upcoming Horticulture Annual General Meeting and Conference which will be held on Monday 27 July 2009 in Sydney.

We will continue to work with growers, Government, industry and other grower organisations to ensure the best outcomes for farmers in marketing, regulation, transport and research, as you will see from the summary below.

## Regards,



**Peter Darley**  
**Chairman – NSW Farmers Association Horticulture Committee**

## Notice of 2009 Horticulture Annual General Meeting and Conference

The Horticulture Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference will be held at Sydney Olympic Park on Monday 27 July, 2009.

The Association's Annual Conference will be held at Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park from Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 July, 2009.

## COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Horticulture Committee is once again up for re-election in accordance with the Horticulture Section Protocols. A nomination form is included for your use – remember every Member is entitled to nominate to be the representative for their District Council. Nominations close 5pm Monday 1 June 2009.

## Submission of 2009 Horticulture AGM Motions

The Horticulture AGM is the main policy formulation event for the NSW Farmers' Association Horticulture Members. If you would like to submit a motion for consideration and help shape the Horticulture Committee's policy priorities for the next year, please complete the attached motion submission form and send it to Jason Cappello, Policy Officer via fax or mail by 5pm Monday 6 July 2009.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS

If you would like to nominate for the Horticulture Committee please complete the attached nomination form and return it by 5pm on Monday 1 June 2009. Send by fax to (02) 82511750, Attention Jason Cappello or mail to:

Jason Cappello - Policy Officer  
NSW Farmers' Association  
GPO BOX 1068  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

## **Management of Flying Foxes Update**

The Independent Licensing Review Panel is preparing a report with recommendations to the Director General and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment regarding the current licensing arrangements to cull flying-foxes in NSW. Removing current licensing arrangements in NSW would have negative implications on the management of flying-foxes for orchardists in NSW, as there are currently no effective and affordable alternative management approaches available.

The Horticulture Committee held a teleconference on Tuesday 31 March 2009 to discuss the outcomes of a survey conducted with North Coast members on Exclusion Netting and progress with the management of flying-foxes issue. Based on the response from the survey, the Committee has decided that Sydney Basin growers are most affected by flying-foxes and thus any changes to current licence arrangements to culling. Currently the Committee is waiting for a draft report from the Review Panel for review before the final report is provided to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

## **Horticulture Code of Conduct Review**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Horticulture Code of Conduct Steering Committee met with interested parties in Sydney recently regarding the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission grocery price recommendations which proposed to amend the Horticulture Code of Conduct and general issues relating to the Code.

Horticulture Australia Council is currently requesting feedback from the industry on recommendations being considered by the Horticulture Code Committee as a part of the review. Members are urged to view the following document for further information. Feedback is required by early May.

<http://www.hac.org.au/newsletters/2009/Drip%20Feed%20April%204%2009%20-%20Special%20Edition.pdf#4%2009%20-%20Special%20Edition.pdf>

## **Proposed Pesticide Regulations 2009**

The *Pesticides Regulation 1995* is in effect until 1 September 2009. The Regulation contains provisions that prescribe pesticide user training, record-keeping and the notification of pesticide use (requirements that help to reduce the risks associated with the use of pesticides to human health, the environment, property, industry and trade). The Department of Environment and Climate Change ('DECC') has released the proposed Pesticides Regulation 2009 for public comment. DECC is only proposing minor changes to the Regulation in order to streamline the Regulation's operation so that it is more effective and efficient. It is also proposing to refine the wording and layout of the Regulation so that it is easier to read, but will not change the legal intent of the Regulation. The NSW Pesticides Act will be reviewed once developments at the national level have been finalised.

## **Horticulture Price Publishing Website**

The Horticulture Committee is aiming to have a trial of its market price publishing service available as soon as possible for current Members. Support was well received and now the Committee will trial a service for Members to provide weekly reports on commodity prices received at the farm gate by horticulturists. The Committee expects the advantages of this website to be more accurate market reporting, greater transparency of wholesaler/retailer margins as well as information that could be used to highlight market issues within the industry. The trial, once established will be used to gauge the level of interest from Members and future direction for the service.

## **National Harvest Labour Information Service Survey**

The National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS) would like to hear about your experiences and in return, you have a chance to win some great prizes! Complete this short survey by 5pm (AEST) Friday 8 May 2009, and you will go in the draw to win your choice of a souvenir Limited Edition Signature Cricket Bat signed by Glenn McGrath or a \$250 Coles Group & Myer gift card.

Click here to begin: <http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B591FDE3B7F4E3E0>