



Dear Member,

If you any feedback or require any further information on items in this newsletter, please contact me.

Regards

Michael

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Nov 25- Native Vegetation Act Review public information session (Northern Rivers CMA, South Grafton Ex-Serviceman's Club, 9.30am start

Nov 25- Native Vegetation Act Review public information session (Hunter Central Rivers CMA), Maitland Town Hall, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Nov 29- Dairy Contract and Negotiation Skills Workshop, Tocal College, Paterson, 9.30am to 3pm.

Nov 29- Wingham Branch Christmas Dinner, Wingham Golf Club, 7.00pm start. NSW Farmers President Fiona Simson as guest speaker.

Dec 6- Nambucca River Branch Christmas Dinner, Macksville Ex-Serviceman's Club, 7.30pm start

Dec 7- Lismore/Alstonville Branch Christmas Dinner, Lismore Workers Club, 7.30pm start

Dec 7- Coffs Harbour Christmas Branch Dinner, Coramba Hotel, 7.30pm start

Local News

Native Vegetation laws meetings in Grafton and Maitland

The NSW Government is undertaking a review of the regulation that underpins the Native Vegetation Act and is holding a series of public information sessions across the State to explain the review and to seek ideas on how the regulations could operate more effectively.

A public information session will be held in Grafton on 25th November, 2011 at 9:30am at South Grafton Ex-Services Club, 2 Wharf St., South Grafton. It is being hosted by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA). Anyone interested in attending should contact Janelle Ellem from the NRCMA on 02 66420645 or via email janelle.ellem@cma.nsw.gov.au.

A public information session will also be held in Maitland on Friday 25 November 2011 at Maitland Town Hall. It will be hosted by the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority and attended by The Office of Environment and Heritage. Anyone interested in attending the information session should RSVP by contacting the CMA on 02 4930 1030 or email hcr@cma.nsw.gov.au.

Theses free information sessions are the first stage of consultation on the Regulation and those impacted by the regulations are invited to attend. The sessions will provide background about the native vegetation regulations, the scope of the review and what will happen as the review progresses.

If you can't attend the information session, Members can participate via the online survey located at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/ReviewofNVRegulations.htm> or register for updates at native.vegetation@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dairy Contract and Negotiation Skills Workshop- Hunter Region

In the wake of recent retail price activity, the Dairy Section have developed a workshop to provide farmers with skills in contract law and negotiation to assist in contract negotiations with milk processors. Workshops have already been held in the far north coast and mid north coast regions and the feedback from dairy farmers that attended has been very positive. If would like any further information, please contact Cameron Clarke on 82511885.

Nucoal mining controversy

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported a leaked report prepared for the NSW Government by Clayton Utz looking at the NuCoal exploration licence issued by former Minister Ian MacDonald on Christmas Eve 2008 to a friend and former union boss. NSW Farmers has been working closely with Ian Moore, a member from Jerry's Plains, who has been under excessive pressure to grant access to NuCoal and is now in the Land and Environment Court. The report apparently outlines potential legal action against Mr MacDonald including an ICAC inquiry and is likely to continue to provoke further media interest in the Moore case.

Contact your MP about land planning

You should be aware that NSW Farmers has been voicing strong concerns about the progress of the State Government's Strategic Regional Use Policy and related mining/coal seam gas issues.

NSW Farmers is asking Members from the North Coast and Hunter regions to contact their local State Government Member to stress that the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy process is causing great angst within the community and that a meeting is required as soon as possible.

Some of the key concerns raised by NSW Farmers Members about the policy are listed below and can be used as speaking points when talking to State Government Members.

- *The O'Farrell Government promised the people of NSW that their Strategic Regional Land Use Policy would restore balance and create certainty for communities, farmers and industry, by defining areas where mineral, coal and coal seam gas (CSG) activities should and should not occur, PRIOR to Exploration Licences being granted. As a farmer in an area affected by mining and CSG activities, I am very concerned that this commitment is not being met.*
- *We need strong legislation that doesn't allow mining and coal seam gas activities to proceed if it places our precious land and water resources at risk.*
- *We need urgent changes to legislation to protect our property rights by allowing farmers the right to refuse access to mining, CSG and exploration companies. This change will empower us in this process and put the onus on companies to address our concerns and compensate fairly.*
- *We need mining and CSG companies to treat us with respect and recognise that we are professionals running professional businesses.*
- *We need the O'Farrell Government to immediately implement the promise in their Strategic Regional Land Use Policy that the community will be consulted PRIOR to the tender for Exploration Licences.*

If you would like any further information about contacting your local MP on this issue, please let me know. The names and contact details for State MPs on the North Coast and Hunter are:

| Name | Electorate | phone | email |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| Andrew Fraser | Coffs Harbour | 66526500 | coffsharbour@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Don Page | Ballina | 66867522 | Don.Page@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Thomas George | Lismore | 66213624 | lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Steve Candsdell | Clarence | 66431244 | clarence@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Geoff Provost | Tweed | 07 55234816 | tweed@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Andrew Stoner | Oxley | 65626190 | oxley@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Leslie Williams | Port Macquarie | 65840977 | portmacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Stephen Bromhead | Myall Lakes | 65554099 | myalllakes@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| George Souris | Upper Hunter | 65431065 | upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au |
| Craig Baumann | Port Stephens | 49874455 | |
| Robyn Parker | Maitland | 49331617 | robyn.parker@parliament.nsw.gov.au |

Membership benefit reminder- WFI Farm Insurance

Don't forget to contact your local WFI representative on the North Coast and Hunter regions when considering your farm insurance. WFI are a long term partner of NSW Farmers and offer specialised farm insurance products. Please contact me for contact details of your local WFI representative.

Michael Burt

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