



**November/December 2007 Volume 2 Issue 6**

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the Business  
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Farmers  
ASSOCIATION**

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### **Parliament in Review**

Bills in the NSW Parliament of interest to the Association include the Murray-Darling Basin Amendment Bill and Sydney independent Clover Moore's Private Member's Bill, Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill. State Parliamentary inquiries of interest to the Association are the Inquiry into Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities and the Inquiry into Natural Resource Management (Climate Change). Other issues raised in Parliament of interest included country apprenticeships, the Albury Agricultural Show and water sharing plans.

- The Federal Parliament resumes sitting on Tuesday 12 February 2008.
- The NSW State Parliament resumes sitting on Tuesday 26 February 2008.

### **Federal Election 2007**

On Saturday 24 November 2007 Australia went to the polls to decide who would govern the nation for the next three years. The end result was a major loss of seats by the sitting Coalition Government with a 5.45 percent swing to Labor. Labor's Prime Minister elect Kevin Rudd will be Australia's 26<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister. The swing against the Howard Government was the third largest swing against an incumbent Government since the Second World War. It is also the first time that the Liberal Party is not in government at either a state or national level. At the 2003 election Labor won 60 seats, the Coalition won 87 seats and there were three independents. At the 2007 federal election Labor won 83 of the 150 seats in the Federal Parliament. The Coalition won 65 seats and there will be two independent MP's, Tony Windsor in the NSW Seat of New England and Bob Katter in the Queensland Seat of Kennedy.

### **New Labor Federal Ministers**

Mr Tony Burke MP, (NSW) Member for Watson, has been appointed Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Mr Peter Garrett MP, (NSW) Member for Kingsford Smith, has been appointed Minister for Environment, Heritage and The Arts. Senator Penny Wong from South Australia has been appointed Minister for Climate Change and Water. Mr Anthony Albanese MP, (NSW) Member for Grayndler, has been appointed Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Local Government.

### **New Federal Opposition Ministers relating to Agriculture – Coalition**

The Leader of the Federal Opposition, Dr Brendan Nelson MP, announced his front bench Shadow Cabinet and Outer Shadow Ministry. Warren Truss MP (QLD) has been elected Leader of The Nationals and appointed Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Local Government. Senator Nigel Scullion (NT) has been elected Leader of The Nationals in the Senate and appointed Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Greg Hunt MP (VIC) has been appointed Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Urban Water. John Cobb MP (NSW) has been appointed Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Water Security. Sharmon Stone MP (VIC) has been appointed to the Outer Shadow Ministry as Shadow Minister for Environment, Heritage, the Arts and Indigenous Affairs.

### **Appointment of Departmental Secretaries**

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced the new arrangements for Departmental Secretaries of the Commonwealth Public Service. Most Secretaries will remain in their existing portfolios. In the newly established Department of Climate Change within the Prime Minister's portfolio, Dr Martin Parkinson will be Secretary of the new department.

### **Further Information:**

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

Federal Parliament: [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)

NSW Parliament: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au)