



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 18 September 2009

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES**
Inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

Farmers and climate change in Tasmania

As part of its inquiry into Australian farmers and climate change, the House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee will be holding public hearings in **Hobart** on the morning of **Monday 21 September**, and property inspections at **Kempton** that afternoon.

In Hobart, the Committee will hear from representatives of a range of groups with an interest in the future of Australian agriculture in the face of climate change, including:

- The Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) – (Submission no. 15)
- Professor Frank Vanclay and Mrs Aysha Fleming (TIAR) – (Submission no. 2)
- Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Submission no. 57)
- Forestry Tasmania

Details of the program are available on the Committee's website.

The property inspections at Kempton will allow the Committee to see the work of local property owners in conjunction with Forestry Tasmania as part of the **Trees on Farms** program, which is designed to have multiple environmental, social and economic benefits, including restoration of land, providing habitat for native animals and providing on farm carbon storage. The Committee will also meet with Mr John L Jones, Chairman of **Rural Alive and Well**, which addresses community and mental health issues.

The Chair of the Committee, Dick Adams, noted that the Committee's visit to Tasmania targeted two major issues identified in the evidence received during the inquiry—the importance of farm forestry as a tool for income diversification and climate change mitigation and the need to treat climate change as a social challenge as well as an environmental and economic challenge. He said: "We are looking for evidence on how to manage the social impacts of climate change on farmers and rural communities, on how to identify attitudinal and social obstacles to managing the impacts of climate change and overcome them. Dealing with climate change is as much about hearts and minds as plants, animals and soil."

PUBLIC HEARING—Hobart, Monday 21 September 2009

WHERE: Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey St Hobart
WHEN: Monday 21 September 2009, 8.30am–12.00pm

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500 or 0419 468 689 (21 September only), email pir.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pir>