



## Climate change: What will happen to Australia's agricultural sector

On Monday 24 November, the Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will hear evidence on the impact of climate change on Australia's agricultural sector as part of its inquiry into the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in Australia.

In considering how to implement the Kyoto Protocol in Australia, the Government will be considering both what needs to be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and how to ameliorate the effects of climate change.

'Australia's agriculture sector is likely to be hard hit by climate change,' the Committee's Chair, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, said. 'The Government will need to respond strongly to the threat to rural communities posed by climate change.'

Research by the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) predicts a dire future for Australian agriculture. ABARE expects that climate change will reduce agricultural productivity by between 9-10 per cent by 2030, and between 13-19 per cent by 2050.

'The Committee will be discussing with ABARE the effect on rural communities of this decline in productivity, and what approaches the Government needs to take to assist rural communities to cope with climate change,' Mr Thomson said.

The Committee will also be hearing from Environment Business Australia about how an innovative approach to supporting business will enable businesses to lead the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### **PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM 10.00 am-12.00 pm, Monday, 24 November 2008**

*Venue:* Committee Room 2R1, 2nd floor, Parliament House, Canberra

**10:00am**      **Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE),**  
**10:45am**      **Environment Business Australia.**

The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service, radio and webcast live on the Parliament House website at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.  
Further information is available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/jsct](http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct)

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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