



29 June 2007

**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on State Development**

**INQUIRY INTO ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

New inquiry for the Committee

The Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, has asked the New South Wales Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development to conduct an inquiry into the contribution agriculture makes to the New South Wales economy, impediments to sustaining appropriate levels of growth in the agricultural industry and initiatives to address those impediments.

"New South Wales is coming out of the State's worst drought in living memory, and now parts of the State are dealing with the aftermath of flooding rains," said Committee Chair Tony Catanzariti. "The rural community in NSW has always had to be resourceful and inventive to overcome the challenges unique to agriculture in the Australian environment."

"This inquiry will examine initiatives to address impediments to sustaining appropriate levels of productive capacity, such as the drought. Other impediments, such as the difficulty faced by producers in accessing markets, will also be canvassed."

"We'll be looking at the contribution made to the NSW economy not just by agriculture but also the associated secondary industries that add value to agricultural products."

"We are very keen to get public participation in this important inquiry," Mr Catanzariti said. "We are inviting submissions which will be due by Wednesday 15 August 2007."

"The Committee will organise a number of public forums and hearings in rural and regional areas where people can talk to Committee members about issues raised in the terms of reference."

The Committee must report to the Parliament by Friday 14 December 2007.

Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on 02 9230 3078.

*For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on
9230 3078 or for comment, please contact Tony Catanzariti MLC,
Chair of the Committee on (02) 9230 2837*