



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Inquiry into rural skills training and research**

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 6 March 2006

*Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP*

Committee investigates rural skills issues in northern NSW

***Committee Public Hearings in
Tamworth - 9 March 2006
Armidale -10 March 2006***

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be holding public hearings in Tamworth (9 March) and Armidale (10 March) in relation to its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The Tamworth hearings will take place **from 1.30 pm** in the **Gosling Meeting Room, Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, 585 Calala Lane, Tamworth.**

In Tamworth the committee will hear from witnesses such as the Australian Cotton Cooperative Research Centre and the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

The Armidale hearings will take place **from 10.45 am** in the **Marnie Yeates Room, Mary White College, University of New England.**

In Armidale the committee will hear from witnesses including the University of New England, the Country Women's Association of NSW and the Australian Beef Foundation.

Witnesses will brief the committee on a diverse range of topics and issues, from the Australian Cotton Cooperative Research Centre's approach to research and education, to the challenges faced by the important honeybee industry.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said "the committee has received numerous submissions from northern NSW and we see this as an opportunity to hear about some of the developments in NSW regarding rural training, skills and research".

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/reports.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing Aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment: please contact the committee chair, Alby Schultz MP, on (02) 6277 4386 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For more information: please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500.