



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 22 May 2006

Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP

Committee to explore national plan for agricultural education

Committee Public Hearing in Parliament House, Canberra – 24 May 2006

The **University of Queensland's Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science** will appear before the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on Wednesday (24 May) for its inquiry into rural skills training and research.

The public hearing will take place **from 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.**

The Faculty's submission (no. 77 on the committee's website) states that "agricultural education will be best served by a national plan for vocational and tertiary education implemented through well-funded and well-equipped institutions that have the benefits of critical mass in their areas of activity".

The submission also states that this means that a reduced number of institutions offering agriculture is inevitable.

The submission makes a number of recommendations, including suggestions on the types of linkages among education, research and extension that would enhance the three related activities.

The committee chair, Alby Schultz (Member for Hume, NSW), said "the tertiary sector providing agricultural education and research services face many challenges now and in the future. The committee is interested in hearing more about a national plan for agricultural education, and the ways to ensure an ongoing supply of well qualified and skilled graduates enter the industry workforce".

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/ruralskills/> 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.