



Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday 1 December 2012

JOCK LAURIE APPOINTED INAUGURAL LAND AND WATER COMMISSIONER

Marking a key point in the implementation of the NSW Government's Strategic Regional Land Use policy, National Farmers' Federation President Jock Laurie has been appointed the State's first Land and Water Commissioner, NSW Deputy Premier and Nationals Leader Andrew Stoner announced today.

Mr Laurie has served as President of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) since November 2010. He was President of the NSW Farmers' Association from 2005 to 2009. Mr Laurie and his family run fine wool sheep, cross-bred lambs and cattle at their property near Walcha.

"In Jock Laurie, landholders have a Land and Water Commissioner who truly is the friend of the farmer," Mr Stoner said.

"Jock's advocacy on behalf of farmers both in NSW and across Australia is legendary.

"A fourth generation grazier, Jock understands all too well the challenges faced by farmers as a result of mining and coal seam gas activity, particularly in the exploration stage.

"He also understands that balancing competing land use is an important part of driving job growth in regional NSW.

"As Land and Water Commissioner, Jock will have access to the best independent scientific and expert advice available – combined with his experience, this will enable him to ensure the implementation of the Government's policy is evidence-based.

"Jock will provide guidance to landholders and the community in relation to applications for mineral and petroleum exploration licences, exploration activities, Strategic Regional Land Use Plans, regulatory approval and assessment processes, compliance and enforcement matters, landholder rights, access agreements and compensation, and the rights and responsibilities of exploration companies.

"He will oversee land access agreements by supervising the finalisation and implementation of standard land access agreements, collating and publishing general

remuneration information to assist parties in negotiations, and appointing mediators if requested.

“Jock will also provide important advice to the NSW Government on applications for exploration or production activities.

“His advocacy and work on high-level government committees stands him in good stead to fulfil this critical role,” Mr Stoner said.

Mr Laurie currently chairs the Doyles Creek Mine’s Community Consultative Committee. Jock Laurie has also served as Chair of the Rural Mental Health Network and on the Agricultural Ministerial Advisory Council, the Natural Resources Advisory Council, the NSW Workplace Health & Safety Strategy Review Committee, the AgStart Ministerial Advisory Board, and the Noxious Weeds Advisory Council.

Mr Laurie has been appointed for a period of up to three years and will take up his role on Monday 10 December.

He will travel extensively across the State to meet with landholders and communities as well as with other stakeholders.