



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Power of Water

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) is set to play host to the 21st Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in 2004.

Organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC), the three-day Conference will be held in Albury from 24 to 26 March. Pre and post conference tours have been organised and will travel through Melbourne, Griffith, Albury, Canberra, and conclude at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney on Saturday 3 April 2004.

Speakers from around Australia and the Commonwealth will gather to discuss the topic "The Power of Water".

Chairman of the RASC, Lord Sam Vestey, said that the conference has all the makings of a milestone event and is set to lift the level of discussion of water to one of conservation and management of this finite resource.

"Increasingly, those concerned for the future are concerned for water," Lord Vestey said. "The concern is not just global or Australian, but it is personal, affecting every one of us."

Among the invited participants for the Conference are Mrs Graca Machel, Chair of the Foundation for Community Development in Africa and wife of Nelson Mandela, the Prime Minister of Australia The Hon John Howard, Chairman of the Crawford Foundation and Director of the Australian Agricultural Company Ltd The Hon Tim Fischer.

Other key participants include Murray Darling Basin Commission CEO Mr Don Blackmore, Murray Darling Basin Commission Community Advisory Committee Chairman Ms Leith Bouly, Pratt Water Group principal consultant Dr Bill Hurditch and President of the National Farmers' Federation of Australia Mr Peter Corish.

Effective farming versus sustainability, Australia's role in water management and Water Rights – Current situation and options will be among the topics discussed during the Conference.

A feature of the conference will be a youth forum chaired by Member of the UN Secretary General' Task Force on Science and Technology, Mr James Moody. The panel will consist of "young minds" representing Commonwealth Countries.

All sections of the Community are encouraged to take part in this landmark event by registering with the Agritours Australia Conference Secretariat. Please call (02) 6772 9066 or visit www.commagshow.org for registration details.

STATEMENT ENDS

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