

4.12.09 'NFF Inside Briefs' NFF Bound for Copenhagen

NFF BOUND FOR COPENHAGEN

NFF President David Crombie is leading an Australian agricultural delegation to Copenhagen for the Kyoto Protocol negotiations over 6-13 December.

Specifically, the NFF will push for:

- Correcting the current flawed and simplistic representation under the Kyoto protocol of agriculture as a major greenhouse polluter, without acknowledging the sequestration undertaken by the sector. The NFF argues that failure to properly account for agriculture's full cycle is not only misleading, but also places increasing strain on global food security;
- Excluding emissions due to natural disturbances (i.e. droughts and bushfires) in the national greenhouse gas accounts, thereby ensuring that farmers are not held accountable under the international carbon rules for things that they cannot control; and
- Promoting the establishment of an international agreement on agriculture that takes into consideration the special characteristics and needs of agriculture, including global food security, the physical limits to how far emissions can be reduced, the importance of international trade (and risk of leakage) for agricultural goods, the much larger scientific uncertainties in estimating agricultural emissions and predicting the effects of changing practices.

The NFF has consistently stressed concerns over the international carbon accounting rules and how they fail to appropriately recognise the positive carbon management practices undertaken by farmers.

Mr Crombie and NFF Manager – Economics and trade Charlie McElhone will be working closely with the Australian Government negotiating team in Copenhagen to correct this situation.