**Agricultural Levies Institute of Australia**

**Three agricultural related research organisations to ‘relocate’ from Canberra to regional Australia**

The Chief Economist and Chief Executive Officer of the Agricultural Levies Institute of Australia, Mr Spiro Adamopoulos, has today expressed concern about the use of farmers’ levy revenue in the relocation of three research organisations from Canberra to regional Australia.

“The Agriculture Minister, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, has announced that a number of organisations that receive farmers’ levy money will ‘relocate’ to regional areas today”, the CEO of the Levies Institute told a group of colleagues at a meeting today.

“The potential use of levy money for this purpose goes against the levy legislation”, the Chief Executive said.

“Levies can only (or should only) be used for the purposes that is expressed by levy payers in their submissions to the Minister and accordingly approved by the Australian Parliament”, Mr Adamopoulos told a meeting of colleagues. “Farmers should be concerned that potentially additional branches are to be established while the costly Canberra offices will continue”. If the Minister was serious about the moves and saving money, he would relocate the Canberra offices of these organisations as well”.

“To use farmer’s levy money for any other purpose is against the law”, Mr Adamopoulos explained.

“As a matter of fact very little research is performed by these administrative bodies in Canberra - they hand over levy funds to other organisations like the CSIRO to undertake the actual research”, Mr Adamopoulos explained.

“I hope farmers are aware of the principles behind the levy laws which they have voted for and asked the Minister to implement through the Parliament”, Mr Adamopoulos said.

“I was the architect of many of these laws and I understand how important they are to farmers”, said Mr Adamopoulos.

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