

# News Release

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# Tony Piccolo MP

State Member for Light  
Member,  
Economics & Finance Committee  
National Convenor,  
Australia – Italia MP Forum

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## Farmers urged to give evidence to inquiry

The inquiry established to investigate farm machinery issues can take submissions “in camera’ or ‘off the record’ if any farmer or machinery dealer has important evidence to submit which may have commercial in confidence ramifications.

In statement issued this week, the State Member for Light Mr Tony Piccolo said he had been approached by a number of farmers and dealers who wanted to give evidence to the committee but were concerned about the possible negative impact on their businesses and livelihoods if their submissions were made public.

Mr Piccolo said the committee is keen to get to the truth of any issues surrounding the warranty and safety of farm machinery.

Mr Piccolo said that he had received advice from the Clerk of the House of Assembly that the committee “could offer to take the submission in confidence or hear the evidence 'in camera' and resolve to keep the documents confidential or it could take the evidence 'off the record'.”

Mr Piccolo said that any person who wished their submission to stay confidential should clearly state their request and the reasons for it.

Mr Piccolo said it is important that the committee is not used for improper purposes.

“Our role is to collect evidence that will have a positive impact on policy and legislation” said Mr Piccolo.

“If any person had any concerns about making a submission they can contact the Committee Executive Officer or Chairperson on 8237 9211”

“I would urge any person who believes they can make a contribution to the inquiry to do so” Mr Piccolo said.

Mr Piccolo said the inquiry had been established in response to complaints he and other MPs had received about the difficulties some farmers were having in getting manufacturers to honour machinery warranties.

Mr Piccolo acknowledged that at times local dealers were the “meat in the sandwich”; on the one hand trying to provide service to their local farmers but not receiving support from the manufacturers.