

14 March 2007

Letters to the Editor

Wimmera Machinery Field Days

I was delighted last week to attend the 45th annual Wimmera Machinery Field Days at Longerenong and despite the drought and a very tough year for rural Victorians, it was pleasing to see many farmers remaining optimistic by supporting this major event.

Their optimism was very much in evidence at the Field Days where over 27,000 people came through the gates for this three-day event.

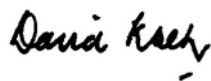
Speaking with farmers from all over Victoria, it was clear that they are doing it tough with the lack of water the hot topic. Having earlier in the day been briefed by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Deputy Chairman Peter Vogel, and inspecting onsite works for the ongoing pipeline project, water security is the most important and critical issue for farmers and all communities across the Wimmera-Mallee.

While most exhibitors have also been doing it tough with low sales throughout the year, the general atmosphere was positive.

A highlight on Wednesday was having Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu attend both the GMMW briefing and the field days. Ted took the opportunity to meet many at the Liberal stand before joining Field Day president Greg Petrass and his colleagues for an industry update.

I congratulate Greg and the Field Day committee for hosting an excellent regional event.

Yours sincerely



The Hon David Koch MLC
Member for Western Victoria Region
Opposition Whip (Council)