



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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STATE OF THE ART PLANT FACILITY BOOSTS NSW WINE INDUSTRY

A new \$1 million plant growth facility will increase research and market opportunities for the NSW wine industry, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson announced today.

Katrina Hodgkinson today officially opened the purpose-built facility, which is located at National Wine and Grape Industry Centre (NWGIC) at Wagga Wagga.

“Our State’s 14 wine regions will benefit from the research carried out at the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre, as it will help vignerons increase their production efficiency and wine quality,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The facility includes two high-tech temperature-controlled plant glasshouses and a bird-proof micro vineyard and will enhance the centre’s capacity to conduct world leading research on grapevine adaptation to climate under controlled conditions.”

Katrina Hodgkinson said the centre’s research will generate important new insights into the impact of factors such as heat stress, carbon dioxide and soil temperature, drought and grapevine diseases.

“The NSW Government is proud to invest in our wine industry because wine is an important value-adding agricultural product for our State, contributing over \$500 million to the NSW economy each year,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

The National Wine and Grape Industry Centre is an alliance between NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the NSW Wine Industry Association and undertakes research, education, training and extension activities to serve the Australian grape industry.

Member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, who joined Ms Hodgkinson at today’s event, said the centre is sure to have a fruitful future which is encouraging for the local community.

“The National Wine and Grape Industry Centre is one of Australia’s leading organisations for research and development for the Australian wine sector,” Mr Maguire said.

“I am confident this significant investment in the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre ensures it is now in the best possible position to not just advance our State’s valuable wine industry but local employment opportunities too.”

Katrina Hodgkinson said NSW has become an increasingly important part of the Australian wine sector and has potential for further growth.

“The NSW Wine Industry Association’s vision is to make NSW the premier wine State, and we are well on track to achieve this,” Ms Hodgkinson said.