



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR STATE'S DAIRY INDUSTRY

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, today announced the appointment of a new dairy development officer within the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) at Wagga Wagga to work with the State's dairy industry on improving farm productivity and profits.

Ms Hodgkinson, who made the announcement at the Henty Machinery Field Days, said the appointment of Mr Peter Havrlant is another example of how the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is facilitating growth in the dairy industry.

"Earlier this month I released the *Growing the NSW Dairy Industry* report and also announced the creation of the \$1 million Dairy Industry Fund, to be spent on projects and initiatives to drive growth during the next five years," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Where Labor can only dream up a vague 'plan for a plan' for our dairy industry, the NSW Liberals & Nationals are delivering tangible real-world solutions like today's appointment.

"The DPI dairy team is now developing a strategy for growth in the NSW dairy sector, following on from the findings released in the *Growing the NSW Dairy Industry* report.

"Mr Havrlant brings a strong background in agribusiness to his new role with the DPI dairy team and he is already working on a project to identify the key drivers of productivity and profitability growth for NSW dairy farmers."

Ms Hodgkinson said the new position will work with Local Land Services livestock and pastures officers, processors, Dairy Australia regional development officers and a DPI dairy technical specialist at Tocal and robotic milking systems development officer at Camden.

"Our dairy industry is at a pivotal point – there is growing local demand for fresh milk and significant interest in our dairy products from international markets," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Although the number of farms in NSW has declined since 2000, production per cow and herd size has increased significantly.

"The NSW Government will continue to work with industry to continue this improvement in productivity and to maintain the competitiveness of NSW dairy farming."

Member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, welcomed Mr Havrlant's appointment: "Peter's appointment is another show of strength for agriculture in the region from the NSW Government, and will be of benefit to our local dairy sector".

To view the *Growing the NSW Dairy Industry* report, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/dairy-cattle/facts-and-figures