



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 23 October 2014

HISTORIC BIOSECURITY BILL INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has today introduced the ground-breaking *Biosecurity Bill 2014* to the NSW Parliament, which will implement a modern legislative framework to protect our State from plant and animal pests and diseases.

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, said the Bill paves the way to wholly or partly replace 14 pieces of existing legislation, ultimately leading to the repeal of 570 years of legislation.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has committed to reducing red tape for our farmers, while ensuring we maintain our enviable biosecurity status – this Bill delivers upon both of those commitments,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“We made an election commitment to make emergency preparedness and security from pests, weeds, diseases and contaminants a priority for this State, while introducing nationally consistent biosecurity legislation – this Bill will also deliver upon that commitment.

Importantly, this Bill is founded on the principle of shared responsibility, meaning everyone has a role to play in protecting our State from plant and animal pests and diseases.

“This legislation will enable us to continue to protect our \$12 billion primary industries sector, and will expand existing laws to better protect the environment, community and broader community from biosecurity risks.

“This Bill will lead to the removal of old, ambiguous and difficult-to-understand legislation – replacing it with a single piece of legislation that is cohesive, up-to-date and plain-English.”

Ms Hodgkinson said this reform has been in the making for more than three years.

“Last May the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government released the NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021 and earlier this year I announced the new biosecurity framework, to underpin development of this Bill,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Extensive consultation with industry and stakeholders has ensured this Bill reflects both State and national priorities, while providing firm yet flexible legislative tools and powers to improve biosecurity management in NSW.

“The powers contained in the Bill will meet our national obligations and will protect our enviable pest and disease-free status, helping us maintain crucial access to priority markets, including lucrative and international markets.

“This Bill cements our status as an international leader in biosecurity preparedness and response.”