



NEW SOUTH WALES

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development

### Helping hand from NSW farmers

The NSW Government is co-ordinating fodder relief efforts for Victorian farmers as the worst bushfires in our history continue, Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said today.

Minister Macdonald said the Department of Primary Industries was working with its Victorian counterpart and the NSW Farmers Association to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

"Farmers in NSW wishing to support their Victorian counterparts in their recovery efforts are urged to contact the NSW Government Hotline on **1800 227 228**," he said.

"Staff from the NSW Department of Primary Industries will be on hand to advise on the options and refer callers to the most appropriate contacts.

"This will ensure all offers of assistance are managed in the proper way so that the Victorian farmers in the most trouble receive exactly what they need.

"Our farmers have been doing it tough in recent years but I know they will be willing to help where they can."

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie welcomed the move.

"We encourage anyone who feels they can help to put their hand up to assist in this time of crisis," Mr Laurie said.

"It's very important that we work together and do all we can to help our peers across the border."

Opposition Primary Industries spokesman Duncan Gay said there was a real need for a managed approach.

"Over the past few days people from all over the State have contacted me looking for some support to organise the transport of much needed fodder to Victoria," Mr Gay said.

"This is one of the toughest times our country has faced, a time for bi-partisanship amongst leaders, and I appreciate the haste with which the Minister has acted.

"I would also like to commend the enormous generosity of people who, up until very recently, have been doing it very tough themselves - their efforts are simply terrific."

Minister Macdonald said NSW has also offered veterinary assistance to Victoria.

“NSW has offered veterinary assistance to help care for the animals in the aftermath of the fires,” Mr Macdonald said.

“In addition, staff from Forests NSW are currently helping Victorian authorities.”

Minister Macdonald said it is important to coordinate the help so the logistics of delivering right amount of fodder to where it is needed can be planned.

“We know from our own experience the devastation bushfires can cause and the willingness of farmers to quickly come to the aid of other farmers in need,” Mr Macdonald said.

**Contact Numbers:**

- NSW Government Hotline **1800 227 228** for offers of non-cash assistance.
- Offers of fodder, agistment, or other assistance can call directly to the Victorian Farmers Federation on **1300 882 833** or using the fodder/agistment form at [www.vff.org.au](http://www.vff.org.au)
- Cash assistance should be directed to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal on **1800 811 700**.