

# Ian Macdonald

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



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## First locust hatchings reported in Central West NSW

Farmers are urged to be on the lookout for locust activity after the first confirmed hatchings of the season were discovered in Central West NSW, Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said today.

Mr Macdonald said the Central West Livestock Health and Pest Authority District had received confirmed reports of locust hatchings in the Peak Hill area and unconfirmed reports of hatchings in Collie.

“The confirmed reports show the locust hatchings to be in very small isolated patches where it has been particularly warm and sunny,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Almost 5 000 locust reports were received from landholders last season which means we are most likely facing a very active spring.

“As we move into warmer weather it is to be expected that those conditions will trigger more locust hatchings.

“It is imperative farmers report any locust hatching or activity on their property to their local Livestock Health and Pest Authority in order to put appropriate control measures in place.”

Mr Macdonald said the action plan to control locusts involved a coordinated multi-agency response, including the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs), the NSW Farmers' Association and the Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC).

“In addition to reporting sightings, we ask that farmers keep a general look-out for locusts, particularly in the areas that experienced extensive damage in the plague of 2004,” he said.

“Our farmers play a very important role in the team effort required to effectively control this destructive pest and I encourage them to continue their efforts this season.”

Mr Macdonald said highly trained staff from Industry and Investment NSW, LHPAs and the APLC would draw on their experience of previous locust outbreaks to best minimise damage to crops and pasture this season.

“Thanks to information from past outbreaks we are better able to predict locust activity which helps our preparedness,” he said.

If landholders see any locust activity they should contact their local LHPA to report it.