



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

21 July, 2011

MINISTER TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND PEST AUTHORITY MODEL

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, today announced that the NSW Government has delivered on yet another pre-election commitment - to conduct a full scale review of the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) model.

“The review will look at the structure, effectiveness and efficiency of the Livestock Health & Pest Authorities as well as the on-going role of the organisation and its rating system,” Katrina Hodgkinson said today at the NSW Farmers’ Conference.

“We have implemented this model in response to the widespread concern expressed by farmers and other rural landholders since the LHPA came into place in 2009.

“Several of the changes under the new LHPA model were very contentious, particularly policies including: landowners with properties less than 10 hectares in size not having to pay LHPA rates; the re-instatement of the pest insect levy and some authorities being allowed to increase rates well above CPI.

Katrina Hodgkinson said the review will be undertaken by an independent consultant and overseen by a Government-Industry Steering Committee who will report to her by the end of November.

“LHPAs are an important industry-government partnership in animal health and pest management and it is important that these arrangements and the associated landholder rating system are structured appropriately.

“The review will involve in-depth consultation with all stakeholders so that all relevant issues and their potential solutions are canvassed and considered.

“The NSW Government is committed to implementing positive and practical plans to ensure our State’s livestock health and pest management procedures are efficient and effective and meet the needs of all stakeholders.

“It’s important to get this review right and we’re committed to doing so,” Minister Hodgkinson said.