



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

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REPORT TO STEER WOOL INDUSTRY TO 2025

Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson and Member for Monaro John Barilaro, today released a new report to guide the development and growth of the State's wool industry over the next 10 years.

In Bungendore today to launch the report, *NSW Wool Industry & Future Opportunities*, Minister Hodgkinson said it provides recommendations for producers, industry and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on how to embrace opportunities and address challenges faced by the wool sector.

"This report provides the NSW Government with a clear direction on how we can help the wool industry to develop a way forward," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Recommendations for Government include driving innovation through research & development, reducing red tape, improving biosecurity and animal health services, and facilitating the provision of benchmarking data on productivity and profitability.

"We will now work with the sheep industry, including the wool sector, to develop a strategic plan to 2025. A plan that is owned and shared by the industry, and which provides confidence to current stakeholders and future investors," said Ms Hodgkinson.

"Future challenges for industry highlighted in the report include tight operating margins, animal welfare issues, risk of exotic diseases and predation from feral pests. The report also provides advice on how, at a farm level, wool producers can position their business to capitalise on future opportunities for the sector,

Mr Barilaro said, "Wool production has been part of the Australian way of life since the first fleet. It was our wool and lamb market that largely kept our country afloat during its formative years."

"Wool is still a significant export market, in fact it is widely accepted that Australia produces the world's best quality woollen fibre.

"I welcome this report and its efforts to find a way forward for the sheep and wool industry ensuring that it has a sustainable future with job security for its many thousands of workers in rural and regional communities," said Mr Barilaro.

Ms Hodgkinson said the *NSW Wool Industry & Future Opportunities* report delivers on goal 2 of the NSW Agriculture Industry Action Plan – a profitable and productive industry in NSW.

"The Agriculture Industry Action Plan is the NSW Government clear plan for growth in our State's \$12 billion primary industries sector," said Ms Hodgkinson.

The report was compiled after a review into the sector which was announced late last year. The review was undertaken by independent consultants, who were appointed to work with industry leaders to identify potential opportunities and challenges for the industry.

NSW DPI will now commence the consultation process with producers and industry to gain input into how it responds to the report and how to action the recommendations made for DPI.

The full report and synopsis is available from the DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture