



# The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Lands and Water

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **\$4 MILLION FOR NSW PRIMARY INDUSTRIES RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has confirmed the NSW Government has secured \$4 million for new cutting-edge research as part of the Commonwealth Government's Rural Research Development for Profit program.

"NSW has some of the best and brightest scientists anywhere in the world and this announcement is further testament to our track record in delivering leading research and development," Mr Blair said.

"A total of four NSW projects shared in the Commonwealth funding and we look forward to working with our research partners to deliver commercial benefits for the State's \$12 billion primary industries sector.

"The projects cover research into Australian Yellowtail Kingfish production, irrigation, managing climate variability and maximising returns from our growing biofuel industries."

NSW is participating in the following projects:

- Australian Yellowtail Kingfish aquaculture industry – reducing the costs of Yellowtail Kingfish feeds, enhancing feed utilisation and increasing fish survival and growth to deliver a 10 per cent rise in farm productivity.
  - Smarter irrigation for profit – improving the efficiency of the NSW irrigation sectors.
  - Improved use of seasonal forecasting to increase farmer profitability – providing new tools to help farmers manage climate variability and resilience.
- Biorefineries for conversion of agricultural and forestry residues into advanced fuels, fine chemicals and animal feeds, and build value chain knowledge and organisational capacity.

Mr Blair said research staff from the Department of Primary Industries' Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute, Yanco Agricultural Institute and Orange Agricultural Institute will participate in the projects.

"This new funding builds on more than \$100 million which is invested across more than 900 active R&D projects being undertaken by DPI with its research partners," he said.