



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, 3 February 2012

#### MINISTER LAUNCHES LETTUCE PROTECTION TOOL KIT

Today, after thirteen years of research and extensive work by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, lettuce growers and consultants, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson is proud to announce, the official launch of the Lettuce Protection Tool Kit.

The Lettuce Protection Toolkit is a suite of text and video resources for lettuce growers contained on one multimedia disc that has been sent to 700 lettuce growers throughout Australia.

“The toolkit is a highly valuable resource that will help lettuce growers maximise the benefits of integrated pest management (IPM) on their farms,” Ms Hodgkinson said while in the Riverina today.

“With a supermarket price war on vegetables now on the horizon, having the latest information at their fingertips has just become even more vital for NSW lettuce growers.

“This could provide the edge they need to survive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

“I commend Dr Sandra McDougall, her NSW DPI team at Yanco and partner organisations in producing this practical and comprehensive resource.”

Ms Hodgkinson said NSW Department of Primary Industries led the national Lettuce Protection Toolkit project, with support from partner organisations, Horticulture Australia, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, West Australian Department of Agriculture and IPM Technologies Pty Ltd.

“A large resource library of factsheets, posters, field guides and other publications such as newsletters, conference papers and reports, is also included on the disc.

“Detailed information is provided on how pests get into crops, what eats them, their lifecycle, when they are vulnerable to specific control options and the impact of those control options on other pests or their natural enemies.”

“The breadth and depth of information on the disc covers every aspect of lettuce IPM covered, including insect pests, diseases, weeds and nematodes.”

“The disc includes a video clip that provides an overview on lettuce IPM and seven video case studies featuring IPM lettuce growers and their consultants,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“This disc is an invaluable resource that will assist lettuce growers throughout the country and I am proud that NSW Department of Primary Industries has led the charge in such an important project for Australian farmers.”