

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

BUDGET BACKS PRIMARY INDUSTRIES WITH \$1 BILLION INVESTMENT

Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water Niall Blair, has announced more than \$1.3 billion will be invested to ensure the state's primary industries remain nation-leaders and deliver vital management of our natural resources.

"The 2015-16 NSW Budget builds on historic investments into the state's primary industries – because this sector is leading the nation in production, innovation and competitiveness and I am fiercely determined to keep it that way," Mr Blair said.

There is significant focus on the delivery of vital water projects across NSW, with hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to deliver crucial water reform initiatives, rebates and projects, including:

- \$186 million to assist eligible NSW households with the financial costs for the supply of potable water;
- \$130 million for water saving infrastructure projects, funded by the Commonwealth under its Water for the Future program, to assist in bridging the gap to the Basin Plan;
- \$38 million to secure long-term potable water supplies and manage effluent effective in regional communities;
- \$16 million to implement water reform initiatives in the Murray-Darling Basin;
- \$11 million for programs to improve water and sewerage services for eligible aboriginal communities.

\$162 million will also be invested to deliver quality services to the State's farmers, landholders and communities across rural and regional NSW, through Local Land Services.

The budget also delivers \$63 million in drought assistance funding under the five-year NSW Drought Strategy, including \$50 million for the popular Farm Innovation Fund.

The budget also invests \$15 million over four years to build on the partnership between the NSW Government and the community Landcare movement and to create a foundation for long term sustainability, enabling the volunteer effort to continue well into the future.

Investment in critical coastal infrastructure on the State's Crown Land will be backed by \$45 million over four years, ensuring the future protection of our coastal lands that underpin key NSW industries, such as tourism, commercial fishing and recreational boating.

The budget includes \$15 million for the Forestry Corporation of NSW for community service obligations, including road maintenance for community use, firefighting and prevention, recreation and tourism activities and volunteer and education programs.



Budget 2015-16

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

The corporation manages about two million hectares of native forests, including about one million hectares of non-productive forests, on behalf of the NSW Government.