



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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BIOSECURITY FOCUS: \$400,000 'ONE HEALTH' PARTNERSHIP

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has announced an additional \$400,000 in funding to support a 'one health' project, which targets the animal-human disease interface, at the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation annual conference.

"It is becoming more obvious that human health, animal and plant and environmental health are linked and with more than 60 per cent of emerging human infectious diseases coming from animals – it is vital we invest in research to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases," Mr Blair said.

"The NSW Government is committed to the growth of our state's economy and the ability to detect, manage and eradicate animal and plant pests, weeds and diseases is an important enabler of trade and protecting the health of our communities."

Mr Blair said the \$400,000 announcement will be invested over the next two years and builds on the first collaboration, which saw \$372,000 invested.

The first of the grants funded a new lab-on-a-chip device for faster disease diagnostics, which can rapidly identify infections and the causative virus.

The first disease diagnostic to be developed and trialled with the device will be for avian influenza detection, with virus samples, reagents and test development expertise provided by Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute.

Dr Noel Chambers, Chief Executive Officer of the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation said these newly created grant opportunities are supporting research specifically targeting innovation in infectious diseases at the human – animal interface.

"Infectious diseases can have a devastating impact on both human and animal health, posing significant threats to not only our community but also our livestock, wildlife and export industries," Dr Chambers said.

"At a time when it's becoming increasingly difficult to obtain resources for research from traditional sources, it's an exciting opportunity to be able to be involved in the future direction of the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation with the NSW Government."