

# Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Mineral Resources  
Minister for State Development



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21 September, 2009

## Warm weather wreaks havoc on NSW wheat crop

Hot, dry weather across the NSW cropping belt in August and early September has already cut the NSW wheat crop by an estimated one million tonnes, NSW Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said today.

The latest official figures reveal the State is slipping further into drought at 65.9%, which is an increase from last month (up from 63.9)

The area of NSW which is considered satisfactory has decreased to 9.8% of the State (down from 24.4%), while 24.3% of NSW is considered marginal (up from 11.7%).

“It is estimated that the dry weather has already cut the State’s wheat crop by 20% and every day without rain means more of the crop is lost,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Conditions have been very warm for this time of year, with the national mean August temperature being the highest since records began in 1950.

“Because of above average temperatures, harvest is likely to commence up to two weeks earlier than normal.

“The latest drought figures are not good for the State’s agricultural sector as we commence Spring.

“Areas which have moved into drought in the last month include parts of the Central North and the North West, which includes towns of Tamworth and Gunnedah.

“The NSW Government has committed \$500 million to helping our State’s farmers and we will continue to support them for as long as it takes.”

Over the last month NSW had average to below average rainfall across the State.

“In the northern half of the NSW, only 1-10mm of rain was recorded,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Some crops have already failed and those remaining are stressed and in desperate need for good soaking rain.

“In many cases failed crops cannot be opened to stock as famers have previously destocked due to drought and there is no point in harvesting fodder because there is insufficient bulk in the crop.

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“What started out as a promising winter crop season is again failing due to the lack of winter rainfall across most districts.

“Stock in the drought affected regions continue to be handfed, agisted or sent to market.

“Unfortunately many failing crops do not have sufficient bulk for silage or haymaking.”

**NEW DECLARATIONS (moved into drought)**

Central North LHPA	Part of District moved from marginal to drought
North West LHPA	Part of District moved from marginal to drought

**REVOCATIONS (moved out of drought)**

Tablelands LHPA	Part of District moved from drought to marginal
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**ALTERATIONS (moved between marginal and satisfactory)**

DECLINED (satisfactory to marginal)

Central North LHPA	Part of District moved from satisfactory to marginal
Central West LHPA	Part of District moved from satisfactory to marginal
Mid-Coast LHPA	Whole District moved from satisfactory to marginal
New England LHPA	Part of District moved from satisfactory to marginal
North West LHPA	Part of District moved from satisfactory to marginal

IMPROVED (marginal to satisfactory)

Nil

For latest drought maps go to [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/drought](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/drought)

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