



NEW SOUTH WALES

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Ian Macdonald**

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

## **Locust offensive starts with farmers reporting egg beds**

Locusts could sweep across parts of the State by the end of September if farmers fail to inspect their properties for locust egg beds, Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, said today.

“To give our spring offensive the best chance at success farmers need to check their properties for egg beds and report findings as well as any unreported locust activity from autumn,” Minister Macdonald said.

“Currently we are aware of egg bed sites across the State, mostly in the central and north west parts of the State.

“One thing is for certain there are more out there that are unreported and to have a fighting chance this spring we need to know exactly what we are up against for adequate planning and preparation.

“In autumn we had almost 5000 locust reports from landholders - this means that we are facing a very active spring.”

Minister Macdonald said most landholders wait until locusts hatch before taking action, but this is too late to ensure sufficient resources will be available.

“Authorities need to know now where locusts laid eggs in autumn, or where swarms were spotted, so that surveillance can be carried out to get an accurate handle on the area that could be affected in spring,” he said.

“I urge all land managers in areas where there were locusts in autumn to get out with a spade, dig up some soil in areas suitable to egg laying and have a look for locust eggs, or at the very least notify their Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) of where they saw locusts in autumn.

“The Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) has forecast locusts to hatch over a wide area in the central west, west and north-west of NSW from August.

“This year hatchings are forecast over many western areas, including Narrabri, Coonamble, Narromine, Peak Hill, Nyngan, Bourke, Walgett, Ivanhoe, Menindee, Tibooburra and Broken Hill.

“It is vital we find out exactly where the locusts are so we can support farmers and landholders to control these pests.”

[Map of locust hotspots \(177 kb, PDF\)](#)