

# Ian Macdonald

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



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## **Crop prospects plunge after dry spell: official NSW crop report**

Prospects for all NSW winter crops have plunged following devastating dry conditions throughout August, Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, said today.

“The September NSW Grains Report released today shows 4.3 million hectares of the five million hectares of winter crop sown will be harvested,” Minister Macdonald said.

“And this could fall further without soaking rains.

“The harvest is expected to yield more than 8 million tonnes of cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

“Rain in early September has saved many northern crops, but the outlook in central and southern cropping areas is bleak.

“Without significant rain in the next few weeks, the area harvested and yield in these areas will rapidly decline.

“The prospects for summer crops are similar at this early stage, with conditions being reasonable in the north and very poor in the centre and south of the State.

“Current summer crop plantings excluding rice are estimated to be 336,000 ha.”

Mr Macdonald said only a few months ago growers were hopeful a bumper wheat crop from a 3.3 million hectare planting following a good start to the season.

“The September Grains Report indicates that this year’s wheat crop alone is already forecast to have dropped to 2.8 million ha,” he said.

“Without good rain the quality of remaining wheat crops in central and southern NSW are expected to decline over the next few weeks.

“The canola harvest is also expected to be down on initial forecasts with 11,000 ha already being lost to drought.

“Apart from the north of the State, pulses are faring no better.

“Early sowing and recent rain have improved northern faba bean and chickpea yield potential, but dry weather to the south is taking its toll on lupin and field pea crops.”

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