



The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTINUING AG'S MOMENTUM A PRIORITY: BLAIR

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has today visited the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) head office in Orange, to outline his key priorities for the State's \$12 billion primary industries sector – which is the backbone of the NSW economy.

Mr Blair said the NSW Government had an important role to play in growing the primary industries sector, by investing in research and development and encouraging innovation.

“The NSW primary industries sector is not only the nation's biggest, it's the most innovative,” said Mr Blair, who was joined by Member for Orange, Andrew Gee.

“I'm fiercely determined to work closely with industry to make it easier for our farmers to do business – because we know if our industries are more efficient, our farmers can generate better profits and a better price at the farm gate.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's job is to invest where it's needed to help industry grow – but we also recognise when it's best for us to just keep out of the way.

“There is no doubt there is plenty of work to do to bed down Local Land Services, so it can deliver a better standard of services, like agricultural extension, to our farming sector.

“We also need to continue investing into our world-class research and development programs – so we can continue to support growth of the state's primary industries sector.

“Under the Liberals & Nationals Government, we now have an Agriculture Industry Action Plan, which will continue to be our blueprint for growth in the sector during the next decade.

“Meanwhile, under former Labor governments, our primary industries were all but forgotten – that's why we continue to put these industries at the forefront of decision-making.

“Agriculture is a huge part of the State's economy and the lifeblood of regional NSW, so I am wasting no time to better understand the issues our industries are facing.

“The issues that the industries in Broken Hill are facing are different to those the communities and businesses in Tamworth and Wagga Wagga are facing.

“In coming weeks I will travel the length and breadth of regional NSW to meet with key industry groups, businesses and communities.

“As Minister for Primary Industries, I recognise that nothing is more important than supporting the industries that support the communities of regional NSW.”