



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**

New Riverina vegetable specialist based at Yanco

A new Department of Primary Industries (DPI) horticultural extension officer specialising in vegetable production has started work at Yanco Agricultural Institute, NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, said.

“Growers and industry personnel throughout the Riverina can now call on the services of new vegetable extension specialist David Troidahl for advice,” Minister Macdonald said.

“David worked for DPI at Yanco for twenty years as a technical officer in plant breeding, so he has an excellent knowledge of the local area and its’ different agricultural industries.

“He has already begun working closely with the Riverina vegetable industry to help further develop what is already the largest vegetable growing area in NSW.

“There are about 7200 hectares of vegetables grown in the Riverina, valued at more than \$90 million at the farm gate.

“Potatoes are the major vegetable crop, with large areas of cucurbits, onions, carrots, processing tomatoes and lettuce also grown.”

Minister Macdonald said Mr Troidahl had started work on projects to help vegetable growers to improve their irrigation practices and business management.

“David is working with local DPI irrigation specialist, Rob Hoogers, on a national project studying irrigation efficiency in vegetables,” Mr Macdonald said.

“The aim of the project is to produce a set of tools to help vegetable growers cope with reduced irrigation allocations and still make a profit.

“He is also collaborating with other extension horticulturists to develop a gross margin calculator for growers to improve business management.

“Growers will be able to quickly see the impacts of changes in prices of fuel, fertiliser and other input costs.”