



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday 26 March 2014

#### **CUMNOCK AGRICULTURAL LEADER TAKES OUT NSW/ACT RIRDC RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD**

A natural resource management leader from Cumnock in Central West NSW has been named winner of the 2014 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) NSW-ACT Rural Women's Award, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, announced today.

The winner was announced at a gala dinner at NSW Parliament House last night.

Ms Hodgkinson said while the two finalists – Pip Job and Edwina Beveridge – run two very different farming businesses, they are both leaders in their fields.

Winner Pip, a grazer and environmental advocate, is the chief executive officer of the Little River Landcare Group, a board member of Central Tablelands Local Land Services and an executive committee member of Landcare NSW.

Runner-up Edwina leads a team of 30 people on her pig farm in Young in south-western NSW and has invested significantly to implement best-practice methods in her enterprise.

“Both finalists do amazing work in very different rural fields and I congratulate Pip – who is an outstanding rural leader and innovator – on being selected as the 2014 winner,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Pip has valuable experience in promoting sustainable primary production, she has developed training programs attended by more than 7000 people and is committed to making a difference in rural communities.

“Edwina has shown fearless industry leadership, particularly in areas of animal welfare and sustainability, where she has the lowest carbon footprint of any pig enterprise in Australia.

“The winner was determined through a rigorous selection process and the awards highlight the amazing skills of our rural women and the significant roles that they play providing new opportunities for rural communities.

“Our State is fortunate to have such talented people as Pip and Edwina who work so hard to deliver productive and sustainable primary industries.”

As winner of the 2014 RIRDC Rural Women's Award, Pip will receive a bursary of \$10,000, and both the winner and runner-up will participate in the RIRDC Australian Institute of Company Directors' course.

Pip will now compete for the Australian RIRDC Rural Women's Award, which will be held later this year in Canberra.

The Rural Women's Award is co-ordinated by the NSW Rural Women's Network through the Department of Primary Industries, and is sponsored by the Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Farmers, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and the Country Women's Association of NSW.