



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 February 2015

RURAL RESILIENCE RECEIVES WELCOME BOOST

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson has today launched the new Rural Resilience Program, in line with the recently announced NSW Drought Strategy, which is focused on supporting primary producers to become more resilient and better prepared for future drought.

Minister Hodgkinson said the Rural Resilience Program, will deliver vital support and resources to primary producers and regional communities.

“Today I have welcomed a team of highly-skilled and dedicated professionals to the Department of Primary Industries’ Rural Resilience Program, to work with a range of stakeholders to build the economic, social and physical resilience of NSW farming communities,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Five Rural Resilience Officers have been appointed to full time ongoing roles creating strong community anchors across the State based at Tocal, Coffs Harbour, Goulburn, Hay and Bourke.

“I am also pleased to announce the recent appointment of three extra contracted Rural Support Workers to boost the Rural Resilience team of temporary and ongoing staff to 10.”

The temporary Rural Support Workers will be based at Broken Hill, Goulburn, Dubbo, Walgett and Scone until December 2015, to meet specific community needs related to adverse events such as drought or natural disasters.

This initiative delivers on Goal 11, recommendation 28 of the NSW Agriculture Industry Action Plan launched last year – to adopt risk-management based approaches to address financial and environmental impacts and thereby develop more resilient businesses.

“The Rural Resilience Officers and the Rural Support Workers are a key source of information and support across NSW farming communities,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Staff from the Rural Resilience Program run events and training programs to help farming communities to connect to plan for the future, to assist with recovery efforts after emergency events and natural disasters and communicate the needs and issues of farming and regional communities to government.

“The NSW Government is committed to standing by our farming families, particular during the tough times, and these trained team members can help families access a range of support services and plan for the future,” said Ms Hodgkinson.

For more information or to contact your local Rural Resilience Officer or Rural Support Worker please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 4939 8941.

Rural Resilience Officers

Bourke	Sarah Goulden
Coffs Harbour	Jen Haberec
Goulburn	Mark Robertson
Hay	Danny Byrnes
Tocal	Liane Corocher

Rural Support Workers

Broken Hill	Ellen Day
Goulburn	Ted O'Kane
Dubbo	James Leigo
Walgett	Robyn Walters
Scone	Caroline Hayes