



**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries**  
**Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday 30 April 2014

**MINISTER MEETS WITH CONSTITUENTS, INDUSTRY  
STAKEHOLDERS DURING VISIT TO MYALL LAKES**

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, and Member for Myall Lakes, Stephen Bromhead, yesterday met with primary industries stakeholders and constituents in the Manning region.

Ms Hodgkinson thanked Mr Bromhead for inviting her to see firsthand and discuss some of the key primary industries issues in the region, including commercial fisheries reforms, management of the marine estate and implementation of Local Land Services.

“The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government inherited a mess in the primary industries space from Labor – the regional service delivery model needed urgent reform, land use and aquifer interference policies were in a shambles and the vision for the future of primary industries in NSW had been lost,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Since that point I have undertaken a vigorous program of much-needed reform, including the establishment of Local Land Services – the greatest reform to regional service delivery in NSW since the 1940s.

“The NSW Government is now bedding down this new organisation and I thank the more than 800 staff – as well as board members and ratepayers – for their hard work in ensuring its implementation is successful.

“We recently held the inaugural board member elections and Local Land Services is currently in the process of conducting a comprehensive review of that process to ensure it is improved for future elections.”

Ms Hodgkinson said the NSW Government is currently engaging with industry on the Commercial Fisheries Reform Program.

“There is a need for informed discussions on the proposed reforms, and the NSW Department of Primary Industries is currently conducting targeted port visits with commercial anglers to explain the proposed changes,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“I thank the Member for Myall Lakes, Mr Bromhead, for inviting me here.”

Mr Bromhead said he is delighted Ms Hodgkinson has visited the Manning once more.

“The Minister is a frequent visitor to the area, due not only to its important status as a prime agricultural area, but also because of the range and quality of produce that is grown here,” he said.

“It is my very great pleasure to welcome Ms Hodgkinson to Taree, where she met with various constituents and industry stakeholders.

“Myall Lakes has a diverse range of agriculture, including dairy, beef, fishing and timber among others.

“As the Minister has responsibility for a very broad range of rural interests, many individuals and rural groups want to see her, so I am pleased she has made time to visit us.

“In fact, Minister Hodgkinson is the fourth NSW Government Minister to come to Myall Lakes in as many months, which reflects on its importance in so many areas.”