



**Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier of NSW**  
**Minister for Trade and Investment**

**Katrina Hodgkinson MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries**  
**Minister for Small Business**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN NSW**

The NSW Government is calling on stakeholders of the State's agriculture industry to help develop a plan that will lay the groundwork for the sector's future.

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today launched the Issues Paper for the Agriculture Industry Action Plan (IAP), the latest in a series of IAPs targeting key sectors of the NSW economy.

Mr Stoner said stakeholder advice was being sought to identify what could be done by both industry and Government to ensure NSW was prepared for future growth, while also taking advantage of opportunities and managing risks within the agricultural sector.

"The Agriculture IAP will develop achievable and effective initiatives to support the Government's 10 year strategic *NSW 2021* plan," Mr Stoner said.

Ms Hodgkinson said a key challenge was to increase agricultural production to meet a range of consumer preferences and expectations, with greater constraints on resources.

"The State's primary industries' sector is worth \$12 billion and the proposed Agriculture IAP will set out a ten-year vision to help unlock domestic and global growth opportunities," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"We need to ensure that the state's 42,000 farming, grazing and aquaculture businesses are well placed to take advantage of the rising global demand for protein and fibre."

A Taskforce of nine industry leaders, led by beef producer and NSW Primary Industries Ministerial Advisory Council Chair, Lucinda Corrigan, has defined key issues for the IAP. The issues are:

- productivity, profitability and innovation;
- workforce and skills;
- business and regulatory;
- investment and ownership;
- markets and export; and
- connecting with the community.

"I am confident that the group of outstanding thinkers we have assembled, from key livestock, cropping and rural service sectors, has the skills and expertise to deliver a solid contribution to our NSW Economic Development Framework," Ms Hodgkinson said.

The development of the Agriculture IAP is being coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries' Office of Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security.

The discussion paper is available online at [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au). Submissions close Friday 2 August 2013.