



The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW R&D STAFF POWER SOUTHERN NSW AGRICULTURE

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, today announced a number of appointments of new Department of Primary Industries' research and development staff, to drive the growth of agriculture and horticulture in southern NSW.

Minister Blair made the announcement while visiting Yanco Agricultural Institute.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of pulse researcher, Dr Sarah Ellis, crop scientist, Dr Rajneet Uppal, and citrus development officer, Andrew Creek, all who have now begun working at the institute," Mr Blair said.

"As part of a \$10.8 million joint investment with the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Dr Ellis will undertake vital work in developing pulse varieties for southern farming systems.

"Through Pulse Breeding Australia, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is developing superior and reliable pulse varieties to maximise production and profit.

"This is about improving adaptation, seed quality, plant types and disease resistance of five winter pulses to support southern NSW mixed farming systems."

Mr Blair said, with the move to intensive cropping in the southern region, research into boosting the profitability of grain and canola crops has never been more important.

"Dr Rajneet Uppal's has world-wide experience and will focus on improving drought tolerance of NSW's oilseed crops," Mr Blair said.

Mr Blair said as Australia's largest citrus growing area, the Riverina has opportunities to expand the potential of its citrus industry.

"A partnership between the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government and industry has been forged to build for the future of this industry," he said.

"Andrew Creek will help lead that charge and is working on a new three-year project to ensure positive outcomes."

"The aim is to assist the Riverina citrus industry to boost productivity and profits by breaking into new markets and improving fruit quality through better management."