



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 3 December 2015

****Note: NSW Drought Framework attached****

“DROUGHTHUB”, NSW DROUGHT FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair today launched – DroughtHub – a one-stop online destination for information on services and support available to primary producers, families and communities to prepare for and manage drought conditions.

The NSW Government has today also launched the formal NSW Drought Framework, which clearly outlines decision-making processes, what measures are available and when, and the role of various government agencies through the cycle of drought.

Both of these tools were key commitments under the NSW Drought Strategy, and deliver against two recommendations from the Australian Farm Institute’s (AFI) [Review of NSW Response to Drought Policy Reforms](#), which the NSW Government commissioned last year.

“We know that droughts impact all facets of life in rural and regional communities, not just the farming sector, which is why it is critical that there is a whole-of-government response when drought strikes to ensure better delivery of information, easy access to State and Commonwealth assistance measures and targeted social support services,” Mr Blair said.

“The AFI Review which led to the NSW Drought Strategy clearly found that communication on drought by the NSW Government was lacking, which is why we are launching DroughtHub – to ensure drought information is available at a one-stop online location.

“Similarly, the AFI Review identified that the NSW Government needed to be transparent in defining its role through all stages of drought, and clearly communicating that role with the farming sector to provide certainty – the NSW Drought Framework addresses that issue.

“Dealing with drought already places enormous stresses on our farmers – the NSW Government has a responsibility to ensure access to measures that are available under our NSW Drought Strategy to prepare for and deal with droughts does not add to that stress.”

For more information and how to apply for measures available under the five-year \$300 million NSW Drought Strategy, or for more information about the NSW Drought Framework, or the range of Commonwealth assistance measures visit www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au.