



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

18 February 2009

Ian Macdonald

**Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development**

New Deniliquin dairy position a boost to local industry

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, today announced the appointment of Michael Cashen as Deniliquin dairy livestock officer with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

“Michael’s expertise in water use efficiency and climate change will be important in a dairying district suffering from drought, a milk price drop of 26% and significant water allocation restrictions,” Mr Macdonald said.

“He has extensive experience and his appointment will be a boost for the regional dairy industry during what are challenging times on the land.”

Prior to this appointment, Mr Cashen worked for NSW DPI as a climatology project officer, delivering training packages throughout the State to more than 700 people working in agriculture.

This position included the delivery of challenging information on climate change issues to a sector of the community which already faces significant issues such as drought and poor terms of trade.

“His vast experience working on joint projects with State agencies, especially in the areas of irrigation and climate change, make Michael a valuable asset in his new role,” Mr Macdonald said.

Most dairies in NSW are family owned and confronting difficult issues including climate variability, water supply, increasing cost of production, intense international competition and the rate of technological change.

“Today’s producers have to make tougher decisions because of the economy and extremely variable climate conditions,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Up to date information for farmers is vital if they are to make informed decisions, making the role of DPI officers more important than ever.

“Filling this position in Deniliquin shows the NSW Government is committed to continue helping the farmers of this State remain environmentally and economically sustainable.”