



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

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25 YEARS OF THE NSW RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK

Rural women from across the state have gathered in Sydney today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NSW Rural Women's Network and reflect on its many achievements.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said he was proud to attend the event, supporting a network that has been creating connected, resilient rural women since its inception in 1992.

Mr Blair said the network plays a vital role for NSW rural women, providing them with the information, services and opportunities to flourish both personally and in business.

"These women are at the heart of our rural communities," Mr Blair said.

"It's essential we continue to seek their input and support them in their ventures, just as the Rural Women's Network has done over the past quarter-century.

The network sprung from a rural women's conference in Parkes in 1991, and now boasts a strong history of learning, development and networking opportunities.

Conference participants were keen to build on that work, supporting the future of rural communities across NSW and providing more input to decision making.

"That's exactly what the network has facilitated over the past 25 years, achieving some fantastic milestones not just for individual women, but rural communities as a whole," Mr Blair said.

"This includes facilitating 25 annual gatherings with more than 7500 participants, upskilling more than 1000 women through 70 workshops and producing 64 editions of the network's newsletter - just to name a few."

The fantastic achievements would not have been possible over the years without the help and support of the wonderful staff, both past and present.

The state-wide initiative, led by the Department of Primary Industries, has been a voice for rural women over the past 25 years, with many more achievements to come.

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