



**Niall Blair**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 7 August 2018

### EVERYONE IS GOING NUTS FOR MACADAMIAS

**\*\* Editor's note: Farm vision and grabs available [here](#)**

NSW macadamia producers are reaping the benefits of the North Coast floodplains, with production value of the region's industry reaching almost \$100 million last year.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said the value of macadamias in NSW has increased almost 20 per cent per annum over the past 5 years and is expected to continue growing.

"In the last two years, the industry has expanded across the Tweed, Clarence and Richmond catchment areas, with producers planting over 2000 hectares of macadamia trees on the floodplains," Mr Blair said.

"These floodplain areas are currently achieving some of the highest yields per hectare in Australia, resulting in greater returns for our producers.

"It's great to be able to see this expansion and new approach paying off for the sector and the NSW Government will continue to assist local growers to develop macadamia farms on the coastal floodplains in the area.

"Macadamias are growing in demand from consumers looking for the next superfood – they are full of heart-healthy fats and essential vitamins and minerals, fibre, and plant sterols, which help reduce cholesterol absorption in the body, but best of all they taste delicious."

Department of Primary Industries Macadamia Development Officer, Jeremy Bright said establishing a macadamia orchard on a floodplain requires special management considerations, including effective flood mitigation.

"There are several challenges that growers on the floodplains face, including acid sulphate soils and drainage issues and effective management of these is critical in order to maintain high quality and productive floodplain orchards," Mr Bright said.

"It's important that growers are aware that not all floodplain land is suitable for growing macadamias, however we are committed to working directly with producers to help them select the right options for development and growth."

In 2016-17, the gross value of production of macadamias for the Richmond-Tweed region was \$98.3 million, up 22.4 per cent over the previous year. The Richmond-Tweed region produced 17.6 million kilograms of macadamias in 2016-17, at a yield of 8.6 kilograms per tree. Production increased 12.1 per cent over 2015-16, and has increased 7.8 per cent per annum over the past 5 years.

**MEDIA: Amy Minahan | Minister Blair | 0437 184 606**