Wednesday, 24 August 2016

POPPIES BLOOMING FOR NSW FARMERS

Poppies will now be able to be legally grown in NSW following the passage of the Poppy Industry Bill 2016 through NSW Parliament today, with full support from the NSW Government, Opposition, minor parties and independents.

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair said the Bill enables alkaloid poppies to be safely and securely grown in NSW and supports the production of medicines that are vitally important for the quality of life of many people in NSW.

“Opiate-based medications are used for a wide range of conditions, including pain relief, palliative care and anti-addiction medications. This Bill supports manufacturing and production of these products in a cost-effective way,” Mr Blair said.

“An alkaloid poppy industry in NSW also provides an opportunity to establish a new high-value rural industry with a well-established international reputation and strong prospects for future growth.”

Alkaloid poppy production will be highly regulated at state, national and international levels, with licence conditions and guidelines providing clear and rigorous requirements for the industry.

The first alkaloid poppy crops are expected to be planted in 2017, with poppy processors and contracted growers able to be able to apply to the Department of Primary Industries for a licence.

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