CALLING ALL INTERESTED NSW POPPY GROWERS

Poppy processors and their contracted growers can now apply for a licence to cultivate alkaloid poppies in NSW, after the new Poppy Industry Bill 2016 and its associated regulations came into effect on 1 January 2017.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said NSW has the right growing conditions and expects the first alkaloid poppy crops to be planted in 2017.

“I couldn’t be happier for this unique opportunity for a new high-value industry to be established in regional NSW,” Mr Blair said.

“I encourage poppy processors to apply to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for a licence, which will allow them to be supplied with alkaloid poppies grown in NSW for manufacturing and research purposes.”

To be able to apply for a licence to cultivate poppies in NSW, a farmer will first need to have a contract in place with a processor that is licensed in NSW.

“Things are looking positive - one of the three processors already operating in Australia is showing a strong interest in expanding into NSW and is already talking to the department about licencing and other arrangements,” Mr Blair said.

Alkaloid poppy production is highly regulated at state, national and international levels and the NSW licencing framework imposes clear and rigorous requirements on those involved in the industry.

It is still illegal to take, use, sell or grow alkaloid poppies without a licence in NSW. Illegal possession of alkaloid poppy plant parts or substances derived from them is a criminal offence, attracts heavy penalties and ingestion can be potentially deadly.

For more information go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA: Lucy Brennan | Minister Blair | 0427 083 646