POPPY PRODUCTION POTENTIAL FOR NSW

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has introduced the Poppy Industry Bill 2016 into the NSW Parliament, to enable Australian alkaloid poppy production to extend into NSW.

Mr Blair said Tasmania already produces about half of the world’s alkaloid poppies, which pharmaceutical companies use to produce medical grade compounds for various medicines.

“With growing demand for poppies, there is no good reason why the NSW Government should have impediments in place stopping our primary producers from participating in this industry,” said Mr Blair.

“We’ve got the right growing conditions, the biggest, best and most innovative farming sector in the country – all we needed was the legislative changes to allow poppies to be grown in NSW, and that’s what this Bill will achieve.”

The Poppy Industry Bill 2016 will ensure that there is a stringent regulatory regime in place and that fit and proper process, controls and balances are enforced.

Alkaloid poppy production will be highly regulated at state, national and international levels, with strict controls providing appropriate safeguards against the unauthorised cultivation and misuse of poppies.

Alkaloid poppies will only be grown by licensed growers with a contract to a licensed processor, and all products will be stringently tracked as it moves through the supply chain.

The introduction of the poppy industry into NSW will help strengthen Australia’s position as a reliable supplier of high quality raw materials for the global pharmaceutical industry.

With the removal of the legislative barrier to growing alkaloid poppies in NSW, the NSW Department of Primary Industries will work with processors and farmers to help kick start this new industry.

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