



Katrina Hodgkinson MP
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Deputy Premier

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW AGRICULTURE – PRIMED FOR FUTURE GROWTH

NSW Deputy Premier, Troy Grant, and Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, last night released the highly anticipated NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's Agriculture Industry Action Plan – a strategic roadmap to ensure the continued growth of the State's \$12 billion primary industries sector.

The NSW Agriculture Industry Action Plan (IAP) "*Primed for growth: Investing locally, connecting globally*" is the first of its kind in the history of NSW Agriculture, developed between industry and the NSW Government.

Mr Grant said the Agriculture IAP built on the success of several action plans in other NSW key sectors, including manufacturing, professional services and the visitor economy.

"Over the last three years the NSW Government has released seven IAPs, which have recommended actions that will continue to grow our most high-achieving sectors both domestically and overseas," Mr Grant said.

"The Agriculture IAP recommends a broad range of actions to be implemented by industry and government – all of which are supported by the NSW Government.

"Backed by this strategic roadmap, we will help producers capitalise on opportunities stemming from rapid increases in global demand and population growth."

Announcing the Agriculture IAP at the 2014 NSW Farmer of the Year award presentation last night, Ms Hodgkinson said the plan identified priorities and opportunities for the industry and outlined strategies to drive innovation.

"The Agriculture IAP cements this Government's commitment to grow the sector by identifying ground-breaking global opportunities, including in Asia, and puts in place the appropriate tools and infrastructure," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"The Agriculture IAP is targeting new partnerships and supply chain models to capitalise on market and export opportunities for the NSW primary industries sector."

The Plan is a result of recommendations from the IAP Taskforce, led by livestock industry leader Lucinda Corrigan, which suggested a broad range of actions to be rolled out by industry and government.

Minister Hodgkinson said the recommendations for driving growth are based on:

- Driving productivity into the future through innovation and partnering in research and development,
- Building capacity to do business by cutting red tape, growing exports, attracting investment and connecting with the community, and

- Developing a dynamic workforce and businesses through training to build the skill-base and improve capability.

“This is the first time in the State’s history that the Government has worked so closely with industry to develop a clear agricultural action plan that will achieve the best results for NSW producers and the economy, over the next 10 years,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“It is a reflection of the Liberals & Nationals election commitment to reduce red tape and will make it easier to do business in NSW, positioning industry for long term global competitiveness.”

To view the Agriculture Industry Action Plan *Primed for Growth: Investing locally, connecting globally*, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.