



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW WHEAT CROPS ARE TOPS FOR NSW

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) Northern Panel Chair, John Minogue, today announced the release of two new durum wheat varieties that will improve the productivity and quality of NSW durum crops.

Speaking at the AgQuip Field Days in Gunnedah, Mr Blair said the partnership between the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and GRDC underlined the Department's capability to provide innovative research and development, which benefits NSW grain growers.

"The durum crop is worth \$122 million annually to NSW growers and provides \$93 million annually in export income to the state," Mr Blair said.

"Overall, the value of NSW wheat production for 2016-17 has increased an estimated 29% from 2015-16 to \$2.4 billion.

"These two new durum varieties will increase grain yields by 4-5%, while readily achieving 13% grain protein with improved semolina colour, key traits beneficial to our durum growers and export markets.

"NSW's superior-quality durum wheat is highly sought-after for producing premium pasta products in Italy."

The two new durum varieties are DBA Bindaroi, suited for dryland cropping in northern NSW and Queensland, and DBA Vittaroi, better adapted for irrigated country.

Mr Minogue said DBA Bindaroi performed well for yield and grain quality under very dry spring conditions in the Northern region in 2014 and 2015 and had shown improved crown rot resistance compared with previously released varieties.

"DBA Vittaroi has shown excellent tolerance to lodging, the key trait required for very high-yielding, high-input crops in irrigated systems in the Riverina region," Mr Minogue said.

Both new varieties are licensed to Seednet, with bulk seed to be available to growers for the 2018 season.

DBA Bindaroi and DBA Vittaroi were developed by the Northern Program of Durum Breeding Australia (DBA), Tamworth - a joint project between NSW DPI, GRDC and The University of Adelaide.

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