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**JOBS MATCH-MAKER WINS RURAL WOMEN’S AWARD**

Wagga Wagga local entrepreneur Jo Palmer has won the 2019 AgriFutures NSW-ACT Rural Women’s Award for her outstanding work and dedication to improving employment opportunities for women in regional NSW.

NSW Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW Adam Marshall congratulated Ms Palmer and awarded her with a $10,000 Westpac bursary at a gala dinner at Parliament House tonight.

“This is an outstanding achievement and provides Jo with due recognition for opening up countless employment opportunities for women in region NSW,” Mr Marshall said.

Jo Palmer of The Rock, Wagga Wagga founded Pointer Remote Roles, which connects talented regional women looking for work they can complete remotely from their rural hometown.

Ms Palmer plans to use her bursary to improve her existing platform to help alleviate the roadblocks that hold back many rural women from applying for remote work.

Mr Marshall said this online portal has the potential to reduce rural unemployment, stimulate local economies and reduce pressure on farming families looking for off-farm income to drought-proof their businesses.

“It will also ensure we are using the skills contained in the bush and overcoming the tyranny that distance can sometimes cause."

Mr Marshall also congratulated tonight’s finalists, who each received a $1,000 NSW Government Leadership Skills and Development bursary:

- Ellen Downes from Canowindra
- Lisa McFadyen from Condobolin
- Karin Stark from Narromine.

“I have no doubt we will see many great things from these women in the years to come,” Mr Marshall said.
Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor said the Awards are a wonderful opportunity to recognise outstanding women working in the agricultural industry.

“Through their innovation and success these women are paving the way for future generations interested in joining this important industry and I congratulate all nominees and finalists,” Mrs Taylor said.

Ms Palmer will now go on to compete for the National AgriFutures Rural Women’s Award later this year at Parliament House, Canberra.

Photo caption (left to right): Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor, Jo Palmer, Minister for Agriculture Adam Marshall

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