

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$2 BILLION FOR THE STATE'S PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL WATER

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government 2017/18 budget will invest almost \$2 billion bolstering the State's primary industries and natural resources and securing our precious water resources.

Mr Blair said the investment would help secure safe water supplies for our regional communities, protect against pests and disease, ensure sustainable use of natural resources, boost farmers' productivity, manage biodiversity and support a long-term future for the next generation of farmers.

"The primary industries sector is critical to peoples' livelihoods and prosperity and this budget further reinforces our commitment to regional NSW and its continued growth, through a \$965 million investment in 2017-18" Mr Blair said.

"We want to make sure any investment in this sector looks after our farmers and primary producers not just now, but well into the future.

"This budget sets the foundation for the next stage of innovation and development, along with our goal to achieve 30 per-cent growth in value of primary production by 2020 – a target we are well ahead of."

Highlights for the 2017-18 Budget include:

- \$1 billion towards the State Government's Safe and Secure Water program within Rebuilding NSW, providing reliable and affordable water and sewerage infrastructure that supports regional NSW communities, businesses and industries
- \$182 million for Local Land Services (LLS), including additional funding for LLS to support farmers in implementing land management and biodiversity reforms
- \$78 million for Sustaining the Basin, including the Irrigated Farm Modernisation program to support water efficiency infrastructure for irrigators
- \$75 million for the continuation of concessional loans under the Farm Innovation Fund to assist primary producers prepare for future drought
- \$18 million to continue delivering the Murray Darling Basin Plan, focusing on maximising the productive use of water and providing certainty for NSW communities

- \$22 million towards reducing foodborne illness and bolstering consumer education into food safety
- \$12 million over four years to remove stamp duty on crop and stock insurance
- \$13 million towards balancing environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage values and commercial use of the Nimmie-Caira landscape
- \$6 million over four years towards the Young Farmer Business Project to support the next generation of farmers entering and expanding into the business of agriculture, with a focus on building their skills to manage risk and make sound business decisions
- \$4 million to ensure safe and responsible game hunting in NSW including hunter licensing and education
- \$3.6 million for the shark meshing trial and SMART drumlines deployed on the NSW North Coast
- \$3.4 million towards the State Government's NSW Shark Strategy with a focus on scientific research to better understand shark movements and help reduce the risk of shark incidents
- \$2.3 million to build a new off-shore patrol vessel to protect and patrol the State's fisheries resources
- \$2 million towards research infrastructure (secure glasshouse) for national leading medicinal cannabis research
- \$1.5 million over three years towards the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund to support Aboriginal commercial fishing

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