



Niall Blair

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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STATE HITS OVER \$15 BILLION IN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair today announced the State's primary industries sector is now worth a record \$15.44 billion in 2016-17.

This figure represents a 32.4 percent increase in Gross Value of Production (GVP) since 2013-14.

Industry and DPI have been able to capitalise on some favourable conditions and achieve 30 percent growth well ahead of the 2020 target.

Mr Blair said this is a very significant milestone for all of NSW and in particular our rural and regional communities that ride high on the continuing success of our primary industries.

"A combination of factors has provided a strong tailwind for industry, farmers and DPI to increase the State's productivity and profitability.

"These factors have included high commodity prices, a run of exceptional seasonal conditions, strong biosecurity and significant research and development programs.

"Most importantly, this puts us in a strong position to stand side by side with our farmers as they begin to face some seasonal and economic headwinds.

"I know across most of the State the conditions are dry and farmers are having to make some tough decisions.

"This is why we committed \$75 million in this year's budget for concessional loans under the Farm Innovation Fund to assist primary producers prepare for future drought.

"The NSW Government is committed to working with producers, stakeholders, communities and industry groups to help ease any impacts over the seasons to come."

High performing industries in 2016-17 are:

- Beef cattle (54% growth to \$2.38b)
- Wheat (40% growth to \$2.61b)
- Cotton (8% growth to \$1.40b)
- Wool (39% growth to \$1.14b)
- Sheep and goat meat (33% growth to \$858m)
- Pulses (624% growth to \$810m)
- Forestry (18% growth to \$503m)

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