



**Niall Blair**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 6 December 2018

### NEW STATE DROUGHT CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED

*Editor's note: vision and grabs available on request.*

The NSW Government today announced that Jock Laurie, the state's Land and Water Commissioner, will lead the second phase of the Government's emergency drought response as the State's Drought Coordinator.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said that despite some good rainfall in October, the drought is nowhere near to breaking.

"We know some of the toughest conditions will come in the months ahead, which is why the NSW Government is moving to the detailed implementation phase of our \$1.1 billion drought response," Mr Blair said.

"As a true friend of our farmers, Mr Laurie's advocacy, understanding of the need to protect soil and water, as well as strong relationships with all levels of government stand him in good stead to fulfil this critical role.

"He will oversee the implementation of the Government's drought relief measures to make sure the right assistance is reaching those most in need.

"As the drought increases its impact in the area of water access and management, Mr Laurie's experience as the NSW Land and Water Commissioner will play an important role in assessing at-risk areas and ensuring contingencies are put in place."

The appointment concludes former National Rural Woman of the Year, Pip Job's six-month tenure in the role, which she began in May.

"Pip has been the NSW Government's 'eyes and ears' on the ground, making sure every region had a voice, and was critical to the design of the Emergency Drought Package," Mr Blair said.

"She has travelled from Tamworth to Temora, Broken Hill to Bathurst and everywhere in between to ensure the Government, struggling farmers and rural communities are working together as best as we can while we get through this difficult period.

"I would like to thank Pip for leading the first phase of our emergency drought response. Her dedication and commitment has ensured our farmers know we are standing side by side with them."

For more information on the NSW Government's \$1.1 billion drought package, visit <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>

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