



Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 28 May, 2013

REFORM PAYS DIVIDENDS FOR FARMERS

The formation of Local Land Services has delivered a massive dividend for the State's primary industries sector with the creation of a \$35 million Future Fund and reinvestment of \$5 million per year for agricultural advisory services, the Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson announced today.

"For the first time in NSW, our farmers and land managers will have a fund to underpin their agricultural advice, biosecurity and extension services and natural resource management," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"The \$35 million Local Land Services Future Fund will consolidate the cash reserves of the Livestock Health & Pest Authorities (LHPAs) and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and the interest made available to Local Boards to meet local needs and priorities."

The new Local Land Services will be a substantial organisation with assets in excess of \$130 million. The consolidation of these assets means that Local Land Services will have a strong and certain future.

"Local Land Services is a logical progression from the LHPAs, CMAs and DPI advisory services – it will be an organisation focussed exclusively on delivering relevant and modern services to our farmers and land managers," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"The benefits to farmers are clear and the reform puts farmers and land managers back at the centre of the decision making process.

"In addition to the creation of the Future Fund, the removal of duplication will see \$5 million in the first full year of operation returned to frontline services.

"I will direct the new Local Land Services Boards that this \$5 million per annum will be directed to providing additional agricultural advisory and extension services.

"Local Boards will be able to use these funds at their discretion to hire new staff; contract independent private sector agronomists; or collaborate with Farming Systems groups to deliver the services they need."

From January 2014, the advice and services from Local Land Services or the Department of Primary Industries will be available from 139 towns across NSW, an increase of 22 locations by bringing Livestock Health & Pest Authorities into the network.

Full details of the NSW Government decisions on Local Land Services regions, governance structure and services are available via the DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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