



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday, 11 April 2012

#### **GOOD WINTER CROP OUTLOOK FOR NSW - REPORT**

While severe flooding this summer has caused major destruction in many areas of the State, forecasts indicate the widespread rainfall will contribute to a big winter crop this year, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, said today.

“The record-breaking rainfall was devastating for some summer crops and may prevent winter crop sowing in some areas, however the silver lining is that good summer rain has set the State up for a big winter crop this year,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The Department of Primary Industries NSW Grains Report estimates that a 5.18 million hectare winter crop will be sown this season in NSW, only slightly down on last year’s 5.28 million.

“This includes an all-time high for canola sowings of 548,350 ha – this is 39 per cent up on the 2011 harvest.

“Good subsoil moisture, very strong prices compared to wheat, and good yield and oil contents in 2011 have contributed to this strong result for canola.

“Our State’s biggest crop, wheat, has dropped four per cent this year, largely driven by the current comparatively low forecast cereal grain prices.

“The summer rainfall has resulted in all major storage dams at near full capacity and this water availability will underpin a solid irrigated winter crop this season.”

“It’s heartening to see some benefit coming out of such a difficult period for farmers.”

Ms Hodgkinson said that some areas of the State are still very much feeling the impacts of the floods.

“Preparations for the 2012 winter crop are being delayed in some areas by the wet conditions with some paddocks still inaccessible.

“Summer crops have been damaged by flooding, grain has been downgraded through weather damage and parts of the State are still partially covered by water in the Wyalong and Forbes districts,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

#### **NSW 2012 forecast winter crop sowings**

- Wheat 3,049,000 hectares
- Barley 694,000 hectares
- Oats 379,000 hectares
- Canola 548,000 hectares
- Chickpea 229,000 hectares
- Triticale 125,000 hectares

The NSW Grains Report for April 2012 is available on the DPI website

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/periodicals/newsletters/grains-report-nsw>