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**Go west!**

The NSW Farmers' Association is seeking a commitment to bolster regional economies through the relocation of State Government departments.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says at least four head offices should be transferred to regional NSW.

"The population of Sydney is expected to swell by an additional 1.7 million people to 6 million by 2036," Mr Armstrong said.

"During that same time regional NSW is only expected to grow by 550,000 people – less than a third of Sydney," Mr Armstrong said.

"We have an opportunity to even out the predicted imbalance through decentralisation," Mr Armstrong said.

The Association is proposing the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, Rural Fire Service, the Land and Property Management Authority, and Roads and Traffic Authority be relocated.

"Moving any of these departments to regional cities would provide a complementary employment hub to agriculture in those areas," Mr Armstrong said.

The Association's proposal coincides with the release of an Australian Farm Institute Report, backing decentralisation.

"The 'Growing Regional NSW' Report supports the call for governments to play a leading role in revitalising the non-metropolitan regions of NSW," Mr Armstrong said.

"Moving the minerals division of Industry and Investment NSW to Maitland has injected an extra \$15 million into the local economy each year, and created an additional 130 jobs.

"We know the proposal works, however we would like to see governments make a larger commitment to ensure all of NSW can capitalise on the opportunities of a growing population," Charles Armstrong said.

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