

# Media Release

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## **Budget focuses spending in cities**

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed budget funding in several sectors of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), with \$134 million allocated to improve bio-security measures and disaster response capacity for flood and fire events.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie said infrastructure and capital expenditure spending of \$24.1 million to maintain and upgrade research facilities at Port Stephens and Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute will also benefit the rural sector.

“While funding increases in sectors of the DPI are welcomed, the NSW Farmers' Association is disappointed with the general lack of spending in country NSW – particularly funding on secondary roads,” Mr Laurie said.

The Government must address the continued inequities that have developed over the past decade. These extend not only to infrastructure, but also other essential services such as education and health.

Mr Laurie said the Association is now keen to see next week's release of the State Infrastructure Strategy by the State Government, and hopes it satisfies the needs of the agricultural industry.

“We hope the State Infrastructure Strategy will provide a clear indication of how the Government believes the infrastructure needs of rural NSW will be met,” Mr Laurie said.

Jock Laurie said the release of the State Infrastructure Strategy is a golden opportunity for the State Government to commit to much needed infrastructure such as roads and rail, and show its support for business in regional NSW.

Mr Laurie said recent figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the value of agricultural commodities produced in NSW is \$9.02billion.

“This is big business for the State of NSW and transport strategies are needed. Unfortunately, the Government's budget doesn't reflect this,” Mr Laurie said

“There is a great need to develop an integrated transport strategy for the movement of agricultural inputs and outputs,” Mr Laurie concluded.

**Contact: Amanda Barwick 0428 400 736**