

Media Release



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DPI staff cuts a blow for rural NSW

The NSW Farmers' Association is calling on the NSW Government to outline how it intends to deliver vital services provided by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), following the announcement of research station closures and job voluntary redundancies.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the cuts announced by the State Government in its mini-budget are a blow for regional NSW, not only from an agricultural perspective, but a social angle as well.

"We would urge the Government to provide detail on its future plans for the research projects currently being undertaken at the stations," Mr Laurie said.

Over the next three years, the Government has announced it will consolidate a number of research stations.

"The announcement to offer voluntary redundancies within the DPI may reduce the Department's ability to meet objectives for rural NSW," Mr Laurie said.

Mr Laurie says the Association acknowledges the need for the financial restructure by the Government – but warns this cut may have an impact on the rural community.

"Any job losses in country towns will obviously have a flow on effect to local schools and businesses," Mr Laurie said.

"While we understand the need for the NSW Government to address financial issues, the Association would be concerned with any reduction in jobs and services provided to the rural communities by the DPI," Mr Laurie said.

"I will be meeting with the Minister in the coming days to discuss these decisions by the NSW Government," Mr Laurie concluded.

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