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Key rural portfolios announced

The NSW Farmers Association welcomes the Prime Minister Elect's announcement of his new Federal Ministers which directly affect agriculture, being Tony Burke, Senator Penny Wong, Anthony Albanese and Peter Garrett in the portfolios of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry; Water and Climate Change; Environment; and Infrastructure Transport and Regional Development.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Association looks forward to working with the new Minister's in these key rural portfolios.

"Obviously the Association will be working most closely with the new Minister for Agriculture Tony Burke, and we are eager to have the opportunity to meet with him and discuss those issues on the rural and regional agenda," Mr Laurie said.

"Ministers Burke, Wong, Albanese and Garrett all bring to the table their own experience and knowledge, and the Association is keen to open it's doors to each of them in an effort to continue the flow of information between rural and regional communities and government," he said.

"Our rural communities need positive outcomes on issues affecting drought assistance, telecommunications, quarantine, climate change, water, the Single Desk, FarmBis and Industrial Relations.

"We wish the new Ministers well into the future, as we continue to put forward the issues of importance to farmers and their communities," Mr Laurie concluded.

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Fast fact: The current drought has had a major impact on the Australian economy, with an estimated 46% decline in real farm income and a \$4 billion drop in GDP