



MEDIA RELEASE

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Budget lays tracks for NSW farmers

The NSW Farmers' Association is ecstatic the Federal Government has fully committed to build the Inland Rail.

NSW Farmers' Association President, Derek Schoen, said the commitment of an additional \$8.4 billion to build the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail will drive down transport costs for farmers by providing better access to alternative ports, and creating more competition between the ports.

“When a third of your costs are taken up in transport, this means better farm gate returns.

“The project will also save lives and improve congestion by getting freight off roads and onto rail,” Mr Schoen said.

NSW Farmers welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to deliver the Western Sydney Airport (WSA), including the consideration of rail access, via the establishment of the WSA Corporation.

“The Western Sydney Airport is not only a huge opportunity for Sydney, but could be a boon for regional New South Wales.

“We urge the Government and the newly formed corporation to focus on the development of an agri-port within the precinct to give farmers better access to lucrative international markets,” Mr Schoen said.

The Association is particularly pleased to see the \$20,000 immediate asset write-off provisions for small businesses continue for a further year.

We also welcome the extension of funding supporting the production of the Q fever vaccine and test kits to guarantee ongoing protection against this debilitating disease. The Association will continue to seek improved access to testing and vaccination services for people at risk of contracting Q fever.

A \$9 million investment will see rural and remote Australians for the first time be able to access psychology services covered by Medicare through teleconferencing.

We note Round Three of the Mobile Black Spot Program will roll out, but that there is no further funding allocated in 2020-2021 – the Association will be keeping up the pressure for the government to continue filling in the gaps to improve rural and remote coverage.

“Overall there are some great wins for farmers and regional New South Wales. The Inland Rail announcement really has exceeded industry expectations,” Mr Schoen concluded.

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