



MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Budget must boost farm sector

NSW Farmers' Association is eager to see the Turnbull Government's commitment to the Australian agricultural industry reflected in next week's Federal Budget.

Association CEO, Matt Brand, said the budget books should reflect investment in regional infrastructure, commitment to research & development, greater funding for technological solutions for energy, and rural health.

"If the Australian agricultural sector is to reach its goal of becoming a \$100 billion industry by 2030, it's important the Federal Government hand down a farming friendly Budget next week," Mr Brand said.

"We need to see at least \$1 billion allocated to the construction of the Inland Rail project and clear milestones for completion. This project is a no brainer that would provide farmers with affordable and timely access to markets and ports, and bring jobs to the bush.

"There's a big divide when it comes to telecommunications in the city and the country. This Budget could help bridge the gap with ongoing funding for the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

"We'd also like to see budget allocated to an agricultural precinct for the second Sydney Airport, greater funding for technological solutions for power generation and distribution, and commitment to R&D," Mr Brand said.

NSW Farmers' Association is also calling for the Federal Budget to:

- Preserve the instant capital write-off provisions for small business.
- Provide greater funding to the Fair Work Ombudsman to deal with phoenix labour hire practices in agriculture.
- Provide greater funding to combat dodgy labour hire providers.
- Allocate funding for the Q fever vaccine to be put on the PBS.

"As our economy moves from the mining boom to the dining boom, our political leaders must put

even greater focus on primary industries.

“The 2017-18 Federal Budget is a great opportunity for the Turnbull Government to show its commitment to Australia’s farming sector. We hope they make the most of it,” Mr Brand concluded.

Media Contact: **Kathleen Curry** | 0429 011 690



NSW Farmers – Level 6, 35 Chandos Street St Leonards 2065

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