



Minister Steve Whan
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Rural Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Whan visits headquarters of Industry & Investment NSW

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Minister for Primary Industries Steve Whan has visited the headquarters and met with staff at Industry & Investment NSW in Orange today.

“I am genuinely impressed with the world leading services provided here in Orange - the staff are committed to improving the performance and sustainability of agricultural industries and making our farmers more efficient and productive,” Minister Whan said.

“This is an important Department, it’s now the head office of one of 13 super agencies, and it plays a pivotal role in building the State’s primary industries – which are the backbone of the NSW economy.

“As a member of Country Labor, I am well aware about the importance of providing jobs in regional communities.

“Industry & Investment NSW provides around 450 jobs for the local economy here in Orange, which reflects the State Government’s commitment to rural and regional NSW.

“The Department injects around \$3 million each month in salaries and nearly \$40 million in salaries annually into the regional economy, which is an enormous economic benefit.

“Staff here work closely with their colleagues in the Rural Assistance Authority as well as the Livestock, Health and Pest Authorities, who are also based in the Orange office.

“Since becoming Minister for Primary Industries, I have met with farmers and industry and I am eager to meet with as many people as possible to hear what staff, industry and stakeholders have to say.

“In recent weeks I have met with farmers who have been financially devastated by the drought and I would like to assure all farmers that the Government will continue to support them until the drought breaks – so far we have committed more than \$500 million in assistance measures.”

Executive Director, Science, Innovation and Performance, Renata Brooks, said the staff at Orange will continue to rise to new challenges facing the agricultural sector.

“The primary industries sector is changing rapidly and we’re facing new challenges of food security, a changing climate and the effects of the ongoing drought,” Ms Brooks said.

“We have many dedicated staff in Orange and around the State who love their jobs, including our extension officers, scientists, vets and administrative staff, who are constantly working to improve productivity and protect our important agricultural industries from threats to biosecurity.

“Industry & Investment NSW is the largest provider of science and research services within the NSW Government.”
