



# The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

## Minister for Primary Industries

## Minister for Small Business

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday, April 13 2011

#### **Hodgkinson says time to get Department back to number one**

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, today told staff at the Orange-based Head Office of the NSW Department of Primary Industries that it was time to restore pride in the once mighty Department and focus on service delivery.

“I have written to Departmental staff across the State and my message to them is ‘let’s get on with the job, restoring the Department and servicing the State’s rural and regional communities’,” she said

“To lead one of NSW’s great sectors – Primary Industries – is an honour and I look forward to establishing great working relationships with the staff here in Orange as well as those who play crucial roles in the regions.

“As I’ve said many times, I’m looking forward to working with my colleagues and the Department to put primary industries back at the heart of the NSW Government.”

Minister Hodgkinson is the State’s first female Minister for Primary Industries.

“I’ve lived and breathed agriculture and rural affairs my entire life and I consider myself privileged to be leading the State’s multi-billion dollar primary industries portfolio.”

“I grew up on a superfine Merino stud near Yass and agriculture is in my blood,” she said.

“I know first-hand some of the challenges facing our agricultural and rural industries and I’m positive about the future of our primary industries.”

Minister Hodgkinson said key priority areas for her Department include:

- Food security;
- Science and research;
- Regional service delivery;
- Strategic regional land use policy;
- Review of Marine Parks;
- Commercial fisheries reform; and
- Water, catchment and land management.

NSW DPI provides around 500 jobs for the local economy in Orange, which reflects the State Government’s commitment to rural and regional NSW.

The Department injects around \$40 million in salaries annually into the Orange regional economy.

**Media contact: Brett Fifield 0427 029 511**