



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Southern Autumn break, just what farmers ordered

Heavy rain over the weekend has been warmly welcomed by farmers, particularly in the Riverina with some saying it has been the best rain in a decade, Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, said today.

“Farmers have received much needed follow-up rain in many areas of NSW, which is ideal, it has put them in a great position at the start of the season,” Mr Whan said.

“The South received some heavy rain with Wagga Wagga recording 110 mm in the last 24 hours – some farmers say it has been the best autumn break in a decade, it will allow farmers to plant crops like canola, wheat and oats.

“There has also been some significant rain in the Riverina which has been suffering the brunt of the drought for the last eight years, Narrandera received 73 mm, while Hillston received 60 mm.

“In Cootamundra it poured last night, so a lot of farmers have a big smile on their faces today.

“Experienced farmers in the Cootamundra area say the rain is typical of the autumn breaks they used to receive 15-20 years ago.”

Rainfall figures over the past 24 hours include:

- Albury 66 millimetres
- Boorowa 73 millimetres
- Coleambally 74 millimetres
- Cootamundra 62 millimetres
- Dubbo 25 millimetres
- Goulburn 20 millimetres
- Griffith 34 millimetres
- Hay 38 millimetres
- Holbrook 69 millimetres
- Junee 87 millimetres
- Orange 66 millimetres
- Mudgee 23 millimetres
- Narrandera 73 millimetres
- Scone 21 millimetres
- Walgett 17 millimetres
- Wagga Wagga 110 millimetres

Mr Whan cautioned the rain is far from drought-breaking, with the majority of NSW still officially in drought, currently 65.7% of the State.

“Unfortunately some farmers received no rain or very little rain over the weekend, including Armidale, Bourke, Brewarrina and Glen Innes, so the drought is far from over for our State,” Mr Whan said.