



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Rain blessing for State's farmers

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Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, today said widespread rainfall across the State in the last 48 hours made perfect conditions for the State's five million hectare winter crop.

"As far as starts to the winter cropping season go, this one will be remembered for all the right reasons," Minister Whan said.

"Our farmers have seen some shocker seasons over the last decade but this year is shaping up as the real deal.

"The forecast for further rain this weekend is very encouraging.

"Emerging crops will get a kick along from this rain.

"We are seeing a surge in sowing. Wheat is well underway and basically the whole 300,000 canola crop is sown.

"This rain will see almost the entire winter crop sown within about a fortnight. The north of the State still needs more rain for sowing to be completed, as seedbeds are drying out.

"Experts say that makes this the best autumn break in about 20 years.

"Over the last 48 hours rain has renewed hopes for a bumper crop, we just need this run of good weather to continue through winter and spring.

"As we have seen over the last decade this drought is relentless in nature so there is still a deep appreciation that the drought is not over."

9.4 per cent of the State remains drought declared.

Best rainfall figures (approximately) in the last 48 hours are:

Cootamundra 27 mm	Narrabri 15mm
Wagga Wagga 31 mm	Trangie 32 mm
Albury 23 mm	Dubbo 27 mm
Cowra 27 mm	Deniliquin 34 mm
West Wyalong 35 mm	Rankins Springs 30 mm
Young 24 mm	Griffith 40 mm