



Minister Steve Whan

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

MEDIA RELEASE

New sheep and wool officer for New England

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One of NSW's key centres for sheep and wool will benefit from the appointment of a new Livestock Officer, Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan said today.

"Jim Meckiff will work from the Armidale District Office offering advice to sheep producers across the New England district," Minister Whan said.

"Jim will draw on the vast experience within the Department during six months in service training before taking on the advisory role.

"Armidale is well known for its fine Merino wool production and meatsheep breeding. This position will work closely with the local industry to optimise development opportunities.

"The role of our livestock officers is more important than ever as producers are increasingly reliant upon up-to-date information to assist them make decisions in a changing climate and to meet their customers' demands."

Minister Whan said Mr Meckiff has many years experience working in the rural sector and a good history delivering projects for Industry & Investment NSW.

"Jim has worked in a range of roles in the agricultural industry including several years working on large merino enterprises in the south west and north west of NSW, before joining Industry & Investment NSW in 2005 as an Advisory Officer," Minister Whan said.

"His experience working as the department's Extension Coordinator for the EverGraze project in southern NSW has given him a good understanding of livestock systems and the importance of clearly communicating research outcomes to producers.

"Jim's extension experience includes delivering a range of training programs including 25 healthy soil workshops as part of a project with the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority and groundcover management training which aimed to better prepare producers for drought conditions.

"Jim will bring a range of valuable skills to the position and his appointment demonstrates the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to agriculture and servicing our farmers."
