



# MEDIA RELEASE

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wednesday, 13 May, 2009

## Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy,  
Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development

### **NSW future farmers benefit from Federal Budget boost**

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald today welcomed news the Department's Primary Industries' Tocal College would receive \$5.5 million, through the Education Infrastructure Fund.

Minister Macdonald said the announcement, which was included in the Federal Government budget papers, will be well received by students and staff at Tocal's Paterson and Yanco campuses.

"This is great news – education is an important part of the Department of Primary Industries' services to rural industries and it's essential we provide the next generation of farmers with the best education as possible," he said.

"The \$5.5 million funding will allow refurbishment and construction works to get underway at both campuses, with a focus on improving existing facilities.

"It will ensure Tocal College will be able to offer its students modern facilities and resources.

"The planned improvements include expanded accommodation for short stay school groups, conversion of older buildings to become a Field Training Centre and kitchen upgrades.

"The college also provides meeting and training facilities for a range of industry and community groups, which benefits their local communities of Paterson, near Maitland, and Yanco in the State's Riverina.

"This budget boost will help ensure our state-wide specialist registered Training Organisation, now known as Tocal College, can provide a range of short courses as well, as our fulltime tertiary education program."

Country Labor MLC Tony Catanzariti welcomed the funding for the Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre at Yanco.

"The college is an important local employer and it's a major asset to the Riverina community, who benefit from meeting and training facilities," Mr Catanzariti said.

"This is an excellent investment in the future training and education opportunities to students throughout the Riverina, and our agricultural community needs all the help it can get considering we are still experiencing drought conditions."

**Media contact: Lyndall Derrig 0400 462 447**