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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT SECURES MORE FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Following months of lobbying by the NSW Government, the Commonwealth has today announced an expansion of the highly popular Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme (EWIRS).

Under the announcement \$13 million dollars will be allocated to continue the scheme and allow horticulturalists with permanent plantings, who were previously ineligible for funding, to access it.

Minister for Agriculture Adam Marshall said it was high time the Commonwealth Government tipped in the extra cash.

“This scheme has been wildly popular in NSW, allowing landholders to access much needed funds to complete water infrastructure projects that will help see them through drought,” Mr Marshall said.

“So many farmers have accessed the program that NSW has already exhausted its \$10 million slice of the funding pie. In fact, we currently have 650 applications on the table waiting to be processed and funded, meaning this cash could not come sooner.

“What’s most exciting about this announcement is the fact more people than ever will be able to access rebates thanks to an expansion of the funding criteria to include horticulturalists with permanent plantings

“These producers have been doing it incredibly tough with ongoing drought conditions and the NSW Government has been lobbying hard to ensure they can tap into this valuable pool of funding.

“I’m glad the Commonwealth has finally listened to the NSW Government’s calls. I will continue to advocate strongly for our State’s primary producers and apply pressure on the Federal Government to do their fair share in supporting farmers through drought.”

The EWIRS is funded by the Commonwealth and administered by the NSW Government. As part of the scheme eligible primary producers can access a 25 per cent rebate, up to \$25,000, on new purchases and installation costs of water infrastructure projects. For more information visit - <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate-scheme>.

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