Letter to the Editor

"Praise where it's due".

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I write to congratulate our NSW Ag Minister Katrina Hodgkinson.

In the short time she has been at the helm, her team has moved quickly on various issues that can only benefit farming in NSW.

Regardless of what some other farming body's say, Katrina's recent move to streamline the bureaucracy of various Departments of Ag into one overarching body is long overdue.

Unlike secondary industries, farmers can not pass on their costs, and any reduction in cost burden at the farm gate is a sure way that we can add value to farming.

Also, her recognition of the need to act in a coordinated and sensible effort to control the devastation of wild dogs, is a clear indicator that her Department understands the practical priorities that face the sheep industry.

And once again, we see the spectre of the introduction of OJD black areas, no more than arbitrary "Berlin wall" type lines on a map, a mad scheme that failed in the past, resulting in human tragedy and broken family businesses. What were people thinking back then?

Hopefully the NSW Gov't along with levy bodies such as AWI and MLA invest more dollars into researching new practical and effective ways to control OJD, an before any changes are made, that industry wide debate occurs along with expansive consultation with all grower groups , rather than just the tired old NSW Farmers Assoc.

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