



Geoff Lee
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Adam Marshall
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 28 September 2020

AGSKILLED 2.0 DRIVES INNOVATION IN NSW AGRICULTURE

The NSW Government has committed \$15 million to upskill primary producers across plant-based sectors of the agricultural industry.

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education Geoff Lee said AgSkilled 2.0 expanded on the success of the original program in driving the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of NSW agriculture through training and upskilling.

“AgSkilled 2.0 will continue to 30 June 2023 and has expanded the opportunity for training to a much greater range of plant-growing primary producers,” Mr Lee said.

“This expanded AgSkilled program will offer training across the key agricultural industry sectors of production horticulture, viticulture and rice growing in addition to the cotton and grains production covered in the original program.”

The original program delivered training to 5,227 people, over 849 courses across 189 locations to support cotton and grains farmers in regional NSW.

Mr Lee said the key to the program’s ongoing success was the engagement with industry to ensure training in agriculture is designed to be relevant, current and responsive to industry needs.

“This training increases the productivity and safety of existing workers in the sector and can offer career pathways for people to work in the agriculture sector,” Mr Lee said.

Minister for Agriculture Adam Marshall said the expansion of the AgSkilled program would provide a boost for workers who wanted to upskill or are new to the agricultural workforce.

“These expanded opportunities are targeted directly at emerging needs and skill gaps that have been identified by industry, which means the State’s agricultural businesses can get a leg up when hiring skilled labour,” Mr Marshall said.

“Never before has it been so critical that we develop locally-based workers for the agricultural sector, so this will give them crucial training on the header, cultivating soil and plant health in the paddock, using new technology and more.

“Our farming businesses are the best in the world, and with programs like AgSkilled 2.0 they will have the workforce to match.”

The training is complemented by a range of other Training Services NSW initiatives to support regional NSW. For more information, visit www.training.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA: Leigh van den Broeke | Minister Lee | 0417 268 209
Connor McGoverne | Minister Marshall | 0408 185 304