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MEDIA RELEASE

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Wimmera Machinery Field Days

The onset of autumn brings welcome relief from a long hot, difficult summer during this prolonged drought. January rainfalls across both the Wimmera and the South West were most welcomed and in many cases replenished stressed water storages. Further rains may well offer a good start to the season. After eight years of well below average rainfall, many farmers have weathered tough times but fortunately commodity prices over recent months have held up, providing some financial relief that has not always been afforded when drought conditions prevail. I am continuing to assist to help those affected by the drought as they move through the recovery process.

The rollout of the Wimmera-Mallee pipeline, recognised as one of Australia's most important water infrastructure projects in the last 50 years. The benefits to be gained in the immediate future will be unparalleled in water savings. This will offer many opportunities to our farming communities, regional development initiatives and create further employment prospects. The pipeline will dramatically reduce historic water losses to evaporation and seepage, securing greater water supplies to the Wimmera-Mallee regions.

Autumn is the critical planning and decision making time for farmers, manufacturers and suppliers as the agricultural sector gears up for the next cropping season. Those attending the Wimmera Machinery Field Days have an ideal opportunity to see the latest farming developments and technology. This event is well recognised as the key broad acre agricultural trade show in south eastern Australia.

There is also a great variety of general interest exhibits including clothing, art and craft, leisure and lifestyle, travel and tourism, fashion parades and lots more to explore.

My congratulations to the dedicated team of volunteers and the hard working Wimmera Machinery Field Days committee for delivering 'something for everyone' at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days.

I encourage everyone to make the most of this opportunity to see what is on offer and catch up with old and new friends. I also look forward to the opportunity of meeting many of you along with my colleagues at the Liberal stand in the Heard Pavilion again this year.

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