

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



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CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE TO GUIDE OUR FARMING FUTURE

The Andrews Labor Government has today convened a Roundtable to explore how Victoria's agribusiness and primary producers can best continue to work at adapting to a hotter and drier climate.

The Roundtable brings together farmers, scientists, commodity experts and industry leaders to explore future agricultural research and development opportunities, and other adaptation measures to address this global challenge.

Changes in the frequency and severity of droughts, floods, heat waves and severe storms are of particular concern to Victorian farmers and other key players throughout the food and fibre supply chain.

Our farmers are already adapting to the impacts of climate change on their farms and many will be highlighted at today's Roundtable

Farmers are innovative and professional and are using a variety of new techniques to improve farming practices, such as reduced tillage on their land.

The Labor Government supports a comprehensive response to the complex effects of climate change and these must be considered together with other factors that affect agricultural production. These include changes in farming practices, technology and global commodity prices.

The Government continues to support our agricultural sector in becoming more resilient in a changing climate. Adapting to the impacts of climate change will ensure our economy, community and environment can continue to thrive.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"Farmers know better than most the impact that climate change is having on Victoria and they are adapting their businesses accordingly."

"This Roundtable is a valuable opportunity to consider the complex issues associated with climate change and how more than 190,000 people employed in the sector can take advantage of new opportunities."

"Our agriculture industry in Australia continually punches well above its weight, accounting for 13 per cent of all exports, but with the right investment in technology and innovation we are confident our sector will soar."

Quote attributable to Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"Climate change is a complex issue which requires a strategic approach – and our farmers are at the heart of it."