

**Kathryn Attwells**

**From:** Jessica Cole  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 November 2019 12:04 PM  
**To:** James Jooste  
**Subject:** RE: RE Statement Jock Laurie  
**Attachments:** DPIE org chart.JPG

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**From:** James Jooste <[REDACTED]@deputypremier.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 November 2019 11:58 AM  
**To:** Jessica Cole <[REDACTED]@minister.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE Statement Jock Laurie

Hi Jess,

Statement below.

We will attribute to the Minister responsible being your Minister Pavey.

**START**

The NSW Government is establishing a dedicated Office of Drought Response that will enable increased support for regional communities suffering during this prolonged drought. To enable this progression, the position of State Drought Coordinator will cease as of Friday 8 November 2019.

State Drought Coordinator Jock Laurie played an important role in helping to lead the immediate response to the drought on behalf of farmers.

His contribution to regional NSW during the most severe drought on record has been outstanding and we thank him for his tireless effort working on behalf of the state's farmers.

The primary focus of the NSW Government will be to continue its support for farmers through direct support. The impact of the drought has quickly moved beyond the farm gate and spread into regional towns and cities.

The Office of Drought Response will bring together all resources of government to support families, businesses and farmers, ensuring the NSW Government is doing everything in its power to make sure our regional communities make it through this drought.

The Office of Drought Response will be based in the Office of the Coordinator-General within the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment and provide robust governance of drought related water and land use issues.

**END**

**James Jooste**  
 Senior Media Adviser

Office of Deputy Premier the Hon. John Barilaro MP  
 Minister for Regional NSW  
 Minister for Trade and Industry  
 T [REDACTED] | M [REDACTED] | E [REDACTED]@deputypremier.nsw.gov.au

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