



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

Tuesday, 10 March 2020

### NSW GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT APPLE INDUSTRY IN BILPIN

The NSW Government will support the apple growing industry in regional NSW by funding the clean-up of apple orchards in Bilpin that were severely damaged by the recent bushfires.

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP said the NSW Government will cover the cost of removing dangerous trees and damaged protective netting and posts from apple orchards in Bilpin in the Hawkesbury region.

“Bilpin is a significant fruit production and tourism area with local businesses opening their apple orchards to the general public and allowing hundreds of city-based families to experience active food production,” Ms Preston said.

“Without this clean up, workers can’t return to the orchard and undertake the essential work needed to help the apple trees recover from the fire.

“We will hire local contractors to assess and remove hazardous trees that may be a threat to safety.”

Up to \$3.5 million will be provided for this clean-up effort in Bilpin as well as Batlow.

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro said the NSW Government will continue to support regional towns recover from the bushfires.

“I want to see these important Australian businesses return to full production as soon as possible,” Mr Barilaro said.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries will be contacting local orchardists to arrange for the clean-up.

The NSW Government has committed \$1 billion over the next two years to rebuild infrastructure in bushfire affected communities and is coordinating the clean-up of eligible residential and commercial buildings destroyed by bushfires at no cost to residents or businesses.

**MEDIA: Brooke Collins OAM | Hawkesbury Electorate Office | (02) 4578 0300**