



MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR ENERGY
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sounds of Sydney Symphony help ease drought pain: Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, today donated to four local charities the \$60,000 proceeds from the Sydney Symphony special drought benefit concert at Tamworth in September.

“The drought recovery concert lifted morale for people in the bush as well as providing this financial boost for charities that do so much to help families cope in these tough times,” said Minister Macdonald.

“On behalf of the Sydney Symphony, I am pleased to be able to donate four cheques for \$15,000 each to the drought recovery programs of the Red Cross, Anglicare, St. Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army.

“These local charities do a fantastic job assisting drought-affected families in Tamworth and the surrounding districts.”

Minister Macdonald said rural communities were feeling the full brunt of the relentless drought.

“Drought has a stranglehold on almost 80 per cent of NSW, and the New England has had a tough time of it lately,” he said.

“That’s why the lemma Government, Sydney Symphony, Tamworth Regional Council and generous corporate sponsors joined forces to include the Tamworth concert as part of the orchestra’s 2007 Regional Touring Program.

“The aim was to lift people’s spirits and to raise this money for charity.

”It has been a wonderful success and today it is very pleasing to be able to pass on the financial benefits.”

According to Sydney Symphony Managing Director Libby Christie, the Sydney Symphony belongs to all people throughout NSW and the Orchestra is once again proud to be helping people in regional communities who are still struggling with this crippling drought.

“We are thrilled at the success of this year’s drought relief concert in Tamworth. This is the fourth year the Sydney Symphony has undertaken such a benefit concert and we are grateful for the support of Minister Macdonald and the many generous sponsors for helping make these concerts happen.

“As the Sydney Symphony moves into its 76th year and beyond, the Orchestra looks forward to continuing its work in helping those in regional communities throughout NSW,” Ms Christie said.

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