

Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Mineral Resources
Minister for State Development



sydney
symphony

Vladimir Ashkenazy
Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor

Wednesday 23 September 2009

Sounds of Sydney Symphony help ease drought pain

Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, today donated to four local charities the \$50,000 proceeds from the Sydney Symphony special drought benefit concert at Wagga Wagga in June.

“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 \$12,500 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 Wagga Wagga and the surrounding districts.”

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

“Drought has a stranglehold on almost 66 per cent of NSW, and the Riverina has had a tough time of it in recent months,” he said.

“That’s why the NSW Government, Sydney Symphony, Wagga Wagga City Council and generous corporate sponsors joined forces to include the Wagga Wagga concert as part of the orchestra’s 2009 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 Rory Jeffes, the Sydney Symphony belongs to everyone 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 Wagga Wagga. This is the sixth 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 to make these concerts happen,” he said.

**Media contacts: Minister Macdonald – Trudy Glasgow 0427 217 354
Sydney Symphony – Yvonne Zammit 0410 761 578**