



Australian Government



## THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

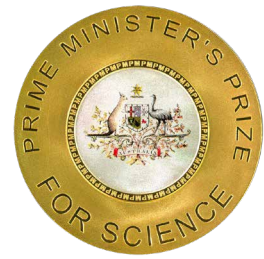
### Mr Scott Graham

Barker College, New South Wales

#### 2021 PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Mr Scott Graham is changing the way agricultural science is taught at secondary schools. His aim is to highlight how it can lead to diverse and unique careers across a range of both urban and rural industries.
- At a national level, the subject of agriculture has suffered a decline in student numbers, leading to a significant shortage of university agriculture graduates. This contrasts starkly with the high availability of modern agricultural jobs, which require knowledge-based, post-school qualifications.
- Mr Graham draws on 12 years of teaching experience to educate students about the importance of agriculture in Australia, and the employment opportunities in this scientific and business-driven field.
- He is driven by his passion for agricultural science, and has helped develop a range of unique programs to engage students by emphasising the positive difference agriculture makes to society. This also includes promoting the increased opportunities of having a post-school education in agriculture.
- Under his leadership as Head of Agriculture at Barker College in New South Wales, student enrolments in agriculture have tripled over the past seven years.
- The school has more than double the number of Year 12 agriculture students than any other school in Australia. Around 30 per cent of these students have gone on to pursue agriculture-related degrees at university level.
- Mr Graham's commitment to this change stems from his belief that children in urban communities are disconnected from the 'paddock-to-plate' journey of their food. His ambition is to reconnect students with the role that agriculture plays in many aspects of our lives, such as food and fibre.
- He also reinforces to students the role that agriculture plays in some of the world's most important issues, such as food security, sustainability and climate change.
- Mr Graham is currently undertaking a PhD with the intent of improving the reputation, enrolment numbers and academic standing of the study of agriculture amongst urban secondary students throughout Australia.
- He is also a committee member of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers. His role involves managing the social media sites for the association, sharing curriculum-related material and assisting with managing the teacher resource database.
- While Mr Graham has been in this role, the association membership has increased by 150 members. His influence has seen the association's professionalism and depth of teacher support increase significantly.





## THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2021 Conducted Higher School Certificate revision days (online) for students across NSW
- 2021 Contributed to Western Australia senior secondary agriculture syllabus review
- 2020 PhD candidate, Charles Sturt University
- 2020-2021 Senior Marker for Agriculture, Higher School Certificate (NSW)
- 2019 Speech at 2nd AgEd Symposium for Agricultural Educators, University of New England
- 2019 Conducted Higher School Certificate revision days (in-person) for students across NSW
- 2018-2019 Judge for Agriculture, Higher School Certificate (NSW)
- 2018 Ran inaugural Barker College Agriculture + Earth & Environment New Zealand Tour (70 students)
- 2016 Created the Barker Agriculture YouTube channel
- 2017-present Executive Member, NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers
- 2016-present Marker for Agriculture, Higher School Certificate