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**NSW GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS KIDS FROM THE BUSH**

The NSW Government has become a gold member of a special trust which helps students from the state’s western division to further their tertiary studies.

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, announced today, $5,000 has been granted to the Rob Seekamp Memorial Trust.

“Rob Seekamp was a pastoralist who tried to achieve better educational opportunities for rural students,” the Minister said.

“Mr Seekamp tragically died last June in a light plane crash over his property, Woolcunda, near Broken Hill.

“Shortly before his death, he raised the idea of a scholarship for young people in the Western Division, to assist with tertiary education.

“The Pastoralists’ Association of West Darling has now helped to make that dream become a reality, establishing the trust.”

Donations have been received from many groups including the Broken Hill AgFair Committee, NSW Farmers, local businesses and individuals.

Mr Kelly said the Government wholeheartedly supports the scholarship as a fitting tribute to Mr Seekamp and his lifelong interest in education, and has become a $5,000 gold sponsor.

“I understand sponsorship to date has reached $40,000, an indication of the community’s regard for Mr Seekamp,” the Minister said.

“The trust will provide an annual scholarship of $2,500 to a student from the Western Division or surrounding areas for tertiary studies.”