

Friday 13 February 2009

PR/013/09

## Farmers welcome EC decision, urging those who missed out to appeal

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the release of the Exceptional Circumstances (EC) declarations by the Federal Government, with 18 of the State's 29 current EC regions set to be extended.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says those Members who are concerned that their regions have not been rolled over need to be aware that there is a limited time to question the termination, before it comes into affect.

"While we recognise that for some farmers the end of EC funding is good news, meaning that the drought in their area has subsided, for others the end of the funding is a severe blow," Mr Laurie said.

"For those farmers whose areas have not been extended and who feel they still require the support, we urge you to act quickly to appeal the decision," Mr Laurie said.

The Association will continue to lobby the Federal Government, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and provide information to the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) on behalf of those farmers who require continued assistance, with a successful appeal led by local Association Members in the North West late last year.

"The Association has been and will continue to be a part of the EC review process, providing information to Government and ensuring our Members' concerns are considered," Mr Laurie said.

"There are some important dates for farmers to be aware of, given that the Federal Government has indicated that once the deadline for the EC period has lapsed any reconsideration will have to be in the form of a new application," Mr Laurie said.

Set cut off periods will be in place whereby farmers can no longer access support if EC is not extended in their local area.

"Following the announcements, farmers receiving or looking to receive support should check with either the Rural Assistance Authority or Centrelink as to their ability to access payments," Mr Laurie said.

"The Federal Agriculture Minister has made a commitment that farmers remaining in EC declared areas will continue receiving support, and we will continue working with the Government to ensure this happens," Mr Laurie said.

Areas set to receive continued EC funding until 15 June 2009:

- Northern Tablelands Small Areas (Revised area: assistance to continue for producers north of a revised boundary running from the Tingha Road to its junction with the Moredon Road, along the Maybole Road to Grahams Valley Road, joining the New England Highway)
- Central North North-West Northern New England Revision

Areas set to receive continued EC funding until 31 March 2010:

- Braidwood
- Condobolin
- Condobolin- Narrandera
- Forbes

- Goulburn-Yass
- Gundagai
- Hay
- Hume
- Majority Western Division (including Cobar buffer zone)
- Riverina
- South West Slopes and Plains
- Young
- Part of Dubbo (Revised area: assistance to continue for producers south of the Mitchell Highway and west of the Newell Highway)
- Part of Molong (Revised area: assistance to continue for producers west of the Newell Highway)
- Nyngan (Revised area: assistance to continue for producers west of the Bogan River and south of the Mitchell Highway)

Areas set to receive continued EC funding until 30 April 2010:

- Cooma-Bombala-ACT

A decision on the remaining three regions (Bourke, Central North North-West Coonabarabran Revision and Central North North-West Northern Slopes Revision) is expected to be made over coming weeks.

For more information on the EC declarations visit the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website [www.daff.gov.au](http://www.daff.gov.au)

**Contact:**

**Amanda Barwick (Media Manager) 0428 400 736**  
**Ruth Redfern (Media Officer) 0429 990 218**

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list simply [click here](#) to unsubscribe. If you are having difficulty unsubscribing from this page please email us on [media@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:media@nswfarmers.org.au) and we will remove you from our lists.