

# Media Release

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## Farmers welcome State Government's drought announcement

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the State Government's decision to continue the drought transport subsidies in NSW until at least August.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie said thousands of farmers across NSW are still doing it tough, as they head into yet another bleak winter.

"Recent figures show that the area of the State in drought is now 48.4%, and unfortunately it's been another dry month for many farmers," Mr Laurie said.

"It is clear that assistance is still desperately needed with around 200 applications been lodged each week for these transport subsidies," he said.

"They provide vital support to farmers to ensure the welfare of livestock, by making it easier for producers to access fodder, water and agistment," Mr Laurie said.

Mr Laurie has also welcomed today's announcement of continued funding for drought support workers.

"Drought support workers provide vital personal support to farmers with drought information and we are eager to see the Government continue this wonderful service," Mr Laurie said.

"Farmers are in a very difficult situation, with the winter croppers desperately needing rain, and people in the livestock industry assessing their winter feed options.

"Today's announcements are even more crucial given the current review of the 26 areas in NSW that are due have their Exceptional Circumstance declarations expire on 30 September this year.

"The drought affects all agricultural commodities and the Association will be working to ensure all affected farmers are represented.

"This review is obviously causing some concern in our rural communities, and the Association is continuing to work closely with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to ensure there is a regular dialogue on these important issues," Mr Laurie concluded.

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