

Media Release

Friday 14 November, 2008
PR/216/08



Drought funding a welcome relief for farmers

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that drought assistance will be extended for parts of northern NSW around Coonabarabran and the Northern Slopes until 30 April 2009.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie said the decision to continue providing Exceptional Circumstance (EC) funding for two parts of the expired Central North-North West EC region provides reassurance for farmers in those areas.

"There are many farmers in the north of the state that continue to experience the full brunt of the drought, and yesterday's decision by the Government to continue funding for these areas is an acknowledgement of this," Mr Laurie said.

"We are very pleased that the Federal Government has acted on the advise of the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) to continue providing drought assistance to farmers in parts of the Central North-North West EC region," Mr Laurie said.

The newly revised EC-declared areas include the towns of Coonabarabran, Tooraweenah, Warialda, North Star, Terry Hie Hie, Bingara, Barraba and Bundara.

The Coonabarabran revision incorporates the Coonabarabran Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) district in its entirety, while the Northern Slopes revision includes parts of the Northern Slopes RLPB, Moree RLPB and Tamworth RLPB. Further details regarding these areas will be available from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website: www.daff.gov.au.

According to Mr Laurie, yesterday's decision by the Government to continue EC funding follows a previous announcement by the Government in August that funding for the majority of the Central North-North West EC area would not be extended.

"We raised concerns about the cessation of EC funding in this area with the State and Federal Governments on behalf of our Members and worked with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to coordinate information for assessment by NRAC," Mr Laurie said.

"Some 500 farmers and Members will now continue to have access to EC assistance thanks to the extension, which is a shot in the arm for farmers in these areas," Mr Laurie said.

The extension is classified as a continuation of funding, and therefore anyone receiving assistance either in the form of Interest Rate Subsidies or Household Income Support prior to 30 September will continue to receive it and have payments backdated to 1 October.

Farmers are encouraged to contact the Rural Assistance Authority, Centrelink, local rural financial councillors or drought support workers regarding assistance options.

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

If you no longer wish to receive NSW Farmers' Media Releases simply [click here](#) to unsubscribe...
If you are having difficulty unsubscribing from this page please email us on msc@nswfarmers.org.au and we will remove you from our lists.