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## **Drought Support Workers win longer contracts**

The NSW Farmers' Association says the State Government's extension to the State drought assistance package is very welcome.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says in particular, the Association welcomes the commitment by the State Government to fund the Drought Support Workers for an additional 12 months.

"Previously, Drought Support Workers had been given 6 month contracts providing limited scope of operations and planning of activities," Mr Armstrong said.

"The work of Drought Support Workers is highly valued within rural communities and appreciated by farmers across the state," he said.

Their role, while critical during times of drought, also extends beyond the drought providing immediate personal support, basic information and referral to other appropriate services

The Association also welcomes the extension of the 50% drought transport subsidy, payroll tax relief and the 75% waiver on western lands rents.

"Despite rains early in the year much of the state remains in a marginal position with low water storage levels.

"We are all hoping that the foundations for this season pay off and we have a good spring, however the extension to the drought assistance package will continue to support farmers until the fruits of this season can be realised," Mr Armstrong concluded.

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