

## North Coast Floods March/April 2009 May 2009

Following the recent storms and heavy rain across North Coast regions of NSW, flooding has caused significant damage and losses to individual farming enterprises.

The NSW Farmers' Association is aware of damage and losses to fences, livestock, farm infrastructure and roads. The Association has been working closely with the NSW Department of Primary Industries since the onset of the floods.

On 22nd May 2009 the Premier, Nathan Rees, declared a natural disaster following major wind damage and extensive flooding on the State's North Coast. The State Government extended the declaration of a natural disaster on 23rd May and again on 28 May 2009. The natural disaster declaration now covers the following Local Government Areas.

Tweed	Kempsey
Byron	Coffs Harbour
Ballina	Bellingen
Lismore	Nambucca
Kyogle	Port Macquarie-Hastings
Richmond Valley	Tenterfield
Clarence Valley	Glenn Innes

Following the declarations a range of assistance measures have become available. Standard Natural Disaster measures of low interest loans, transport subsidies and hardship assistance are now available. Furthermore the Federal Government announced on 25 May that additional flood assistance measures of recovery payments for individuals and recovery grants for primary producers and small businesses. Information on these measures is available on the Assistance Guide – North Coast Floods fact sheet on the Association website.

The State Government has set up four Disaster Recovery Centres to provide centralised points of contact for communities, drawing together a range of government agencies and welfare services to provide residents with support and assistance. The centres operate from:

- FAR NORTH COAST - 40 Carrington St, Lismore. Phone: 6621 2223
- CLARENCE VALLEY - 77 Victoria St, Grafton. Phone 6642 1333
- MACLEAY VALLEY - 42 Smith St, Kempsey. Phone: 6562 1736
- COFFS COAST - 25 Gordon St, Coffs Harbour. Phone 6648 4111 (the existing centre opened after the April floods).

More information on the current north coast floods situations including importance contacts is available from the NSW Emergency website.

<http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/content.php/781.html>

### **Important contact numbers.**

**State Emergency Service - 132 500** for emergency help in floods or storms

**Public Information Inquiry Line - 1800 227 228** to provide information regarding displaced families, road closures, welfare assistance and all other general enquiries.

**RTA Road closures - 132 701**

Farmers affected by the floods but located outside the current Natural Disaster Declared areas are urged to contact the Department of Primary Industries Flood Hotline phone 1800 814 647 to report the damages and losses. This information will be used to ensure that appropriate assistance is provided and determine the need for a Primary Producer disaster declaration.