

PR/179/07

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Unregistered vehicle permits for flood affected farmers

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has agreed to provide unregistered vehicle permits (UVPs) to those farmers that need access to the road network as a result of the damage caused by the Hunter region floods.

The NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie welcomes this move, and says it's necessary given the situation in the area.

"The RTA have agreed to waive the usual application fee, and QBE insurance, which provides compulsory third party insurance for UVP holders, has also agreed to exempt the CTP premiums so there will be no cost to the farmer," Mr Laurie said.

"The permit will be available for a 28 day period with the possibility of extending it for a second and possibly a third period if there is evidence of continuing hardship.

"The farmer will be required to complete an application form and a vehicle roadworthiness declaration, but the RTA operator will assist with this.

"The permits are available for agricultural machinery such as tractors, quad bikes, agricultural motor bikes and other miscellaneous agricultural machinery.

"We would like to thank the RTA for their cooperation and quick response on this matter," Mr Laurie concluded.

Farmers can arrange these UVPs by calling a dedicated number in the RTA Contact Centre - ph 4925 1822 to go straight to the person who will issue a UVP for the farmers.

Contact: Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

Fast fact: Farmers in the Western Region won the 2006 NSW Premier's Public Sector award for conservation work