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## Farmers welcome flood grants for Central West and North Coast

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and NSW Premier Morris Iemma that grants of up to \$5000 will be provided to flood affected primary producers in the Central West and North Coast regions.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the recovery grants will enable farmers to pay for clean up and restoration activities urgently needed after the floods.

"Many farmers are already under significant financial and emotional pressure due to several years of drought conditions and they just don't have the cashflow to undertake clean up and restoration activities," Mr Laurie said.

The Association has been actively seeking the provision of recovery grants for flood affected primary producers as an assistance measure under the Community Recovery Package as per the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Determination 2007.

"We have also written and held discussions with both the State and Federal Government regarding this issue," Mr Laurie said.

"I would like to thank all farmers who helped us collate information on the amount of damage and losses, as we believe this was very important in the Government's decision to provide the grants," Mr Laurie said.

The storms and heavy rain in late 2007 and early 2008 across the Central West and North Coast regions of NSW caused significant damage and losses to fences, sheds, silos, livestock, machinery and roads.

The Association is currently seeking further information from the Government regarding how the grants will be administered as well as the guidelines which will apply.

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**Fast Fact: Agriculture is directly responsible for up to 40 per cent of the economic activity across regional and rural NSW.**