

Media Release

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Quick assistance for flooded farmers

Mid North Coast farmers can now apply for Natural Disaster Relief payments following a quick response from the State Government to the regions devastating floods in April.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Association recently urged those affected to let the Government know about any damage quickly, to ensure a timely damage assessment.

"It's very positive to see the Natural Disaster funding come through, as this will help farmers get back on their feet more quickly," Mr Laurie said.

"Over 500 ml of rain was recorded for April in Taree, the highest for the month on record. All around this region, farmers haven't experienced flood levels like these since the floods in 1931," Mr Laurie said.

"Other regions, particularly around Bulahdelah in the south to the Hastings River in the north where also badly affected, with localised flooding causing damage to fencing, fodder and pastures," he said.

The relief provides loans of up to \$130,000 at 2.85% per annum with a two year interest free period. The loans are for replacement/repairs to property and infrastructure, including damage to crops and pasture.

Oyster farmers should remember that they are eligible to apply as primary producers under Natural Disaster Relief arrangements.

"This announcement has happened in a timely manner, and farmers should take advantage of these loans to assist in recovering quickly," Mr Laurie concluded.

Landholders seeking assistance should contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593

Contact:

Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218