

Media Release

Tuesday 16 September, 2008
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Support for northern farmers

The NSW Farmers' Association's Barraba District Council is holding a public meeting next week to discuss Exceptional Circumstances drought assistance, due to expire in the region at the end of the month.

Only four regions were excluded from the recently announced roll over of EC funding around NSW, including the northern region.

NSW Farmers' Association Bingara District Council Chairman Don Mack says the meeting will gauge support for the extension of EC from the current deadline of 30 September, 2008.

"There are many people who are concerned that our region has missed out, and this meeting will be a chance for those concerns to be discussed," Mr Mack said.

"We will hear from service providers including Centrelink and Rural Financial Councillors, and develop a strategy to deal with gaining an extension to assistance funding for another 6 months," he said.

The NSW Farmers' Association has asked Members who have concerns about the announcement and EC declared areas to contact the Association's regional service managers.

"The feedback we have been hearing has prompted the District Council to call this meeting as we believe it's very important everyone's voice is heard on this subject," he said.

"I strongly urge everyone who can to come along and discuss how we ensure our region is supported," Mr Mack concluded.

The Association encourages all farmers with questions regarding their support status to either contact the Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or Centrelink on 132 316 or through the Association on 1300 794 000.

Date: Wednesday 24 September, 2008

Time: 7pm

Location: Imperial Hotel, Bingara

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