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## **Exceptional Circumstances win for farmers**

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the Federal Government announcement today to extend the Exceptional Circumstance (EC) drought assistance in much of Southern NSW.

Association President Charles Armstrong has welcomed the news that 14 of the 15 areas in NSW currently in EC and due to expire on 31 March will be rolled over until March next year.

"This decision recognises the ongoing dry conditions farmers are facing in these areas and that they have not had the opportunity for a sustained recovery. It reassures drought stricken farmers that the Federal Government's commitment to EC is ongoing while this drought continues," Mr Armstrong said.

"The announcement will allow primary producers in these areas to continue to access the support arrangements of household income support and interest rate subsidies."

Meanwhile, the Association is questioning why the Hume area, east of Albury and Holbrook, has not been rolled over.

"EC areas to the north, west and south of the Hume area have all been extended and farmers in this area will justifiably ask questions."

Those areas taken out of EC in March 2009 and who have applied for reinstatement are still to be considered. This announcement only applies to those areas due to expire on 31 March this year.

### **Contact:**

**Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218**

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