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Bundarra left high and dry

The NSW Farmers' Association is extremely concerned by the Federal Government's decision not to grant the Bundarra area Exceptional Circumstances (EC) status.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong says the Bundarra area has continued to experience dry conditions since it was removed from EC in April 2009, and the recent application for EC reflected the ongoing drought conditions in the area.

"If the Federal Government is going to accept the advice of the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) then it should at least explain to the residents in the area why the decision has been made," he said.

"It is difficult to understand how the Government can state that rainfall didn't fall within the exceptional one in 20-to-25 year range of severely deficient, when Members of the Association have their own records showing it is the lowest rainfall they have recorded for 45 years.

"Furthermore the Government recently granted areas of Queensland EC status following a flood. Landholders in Bundarra experienced a fire in December, burning out much of their land. How are these different?

"The Association is concerned that this decision is also painting a very uncertain picture for other areas of the state with EC applications pending and for the Hume area that was recently announced as not having their EC status continued.

"The Government's announcement has created a lot of uncertainty and distress, and it needs to clarify why the decision has been made," Mr Armstrong concluded.

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