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EC announcement for Bundarra and Eurobodalla

The NSW Farmers' Association says farmers in Bundarra and the Eurobodalla Shire will be relieved to finally hear the news that the Federal Government has granted Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Assistance to these regions.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong said that while the news is welcome, there were serious concerns that the buffer areas in the Bundarra application and the Part Shoalhaven area of the Eurobodalla application were not included.

"Farmers in both of these regions have been doing things very tough," Mr Armstrong said.

"One question the Association does want answered is on what basis the decision was made not to include the Bundarra buffer and Part Shoalhaven areas in the announcements and what information was this based on.

"Landholders strongly believed that they had a legitimate case. So how can landholder information and the State Government application give a different result to the NRAC advice.

"Given the long time frame for this announcement, those farmers who have been battling with low or no incomes had become desperate," he said.

Farmers, particularly around the Bundarra area continue to experience dry conditions and the Association will be looking to what can be done to support those farmers.

Members in EC areas are able to apply to access income household support and interest rate subsidies. Farmers in these areas are encouraged to contact the Rural Assistance Authority or Centrelink if they have questions about these programs.

"This positive decision will finally allow farmers in Bundarra and the Eurobodalla regions to make the personal and business decisions that have been awaiting an outcome for some time," Mr Armstrong said.

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