



# Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW - Central West Bulletin

ISSUE 4

APRIL — SEPT 2008

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## RFCS NSW - CW service delivery area extends with a new office at BURONGA

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW - CW was confirmed by DAFF as the delivery agent for the RFCS Program within its existing service coverage area of NSW and in addition was approved to be the new service provider for the Wentworth/Balranald area which covers approximately 23% of NSW. This new service area extends from Camerons Corner to Wanarring, from Mildura and Broken Hill to Cobar.

Although the area is vast, with isolation a major issue for the farming community, locals will have continuity of service delivery under the RFCS NSW-CW team.

Brian Dodson an extremely experienced local Rural Financial Counsellor has joined our team. Brian has been working with clients within this area of the state for over 15 years and has a personal affinity with his clients. He also brings to our team a wealth of experience and knowledge relating to the needs of the farming community in the western parts of NSW.

Clients are encouraged to drop in at our new office site at **15 Silver City Highway, BURONGA** and meet the rest of the RFCS team.

Wendy Davison, a local lady was recently appointed as the Administration Support Officer (ASO) to assist both Brian and David Water's. David has over 3 years experience as an accountant and joined our team over 18 months ago as the Relief Rural Financial Counsellor.



Brian Dodson  
(RFC BURONGA)



Wendy Davison  
(ASO BURONGA)

### Contact Details BURONGA

The Buronga office is easy to find - situated on the Silver City Highway.

The new office is light and airy with plenty of room.

The new contact details are:

**RFCS NSW—CW Buronga**  
**15 Silver City Highway (PO Box 105 )**  
**BURONGA NSW 27397**

Telephone: 03 5021 1558  
Fax: 03 5023 1180  
Email: buronga@rfcs-cw.com.au

### New Office for MUDGEE

The Mudgee office has recently re-located to the National Centre in the centre of town.

Clients are encouraged to visit with the staff at their new premises.

The new contact details are:

**RFCS NSW-CW Mudgee**  
**62 Church Street (Po Box 910)**  
**MUDGEE NSW 2850**

Telephone: 02 6372 6660  
Fax: 02 6372 6156  
Email: mudgee@rfcs-cw.com.au

### RFCS NSW—CW Board stays focused

During July the RFCS NSW—CW Board met to review the organization's Strategic Plan. One of the many key areas the directors recognise is the importance of changes within the industry and the future challenges of farming. The Board will continue its roll in supporting the staff and the farming community into the new era of farming and adjustment in line with the Climate Change Adjustment Program.

**RFCS NSW  
Central West**

**Annual  
General  
Meeting**

*to be held on*

**22nd  
OCTOBER  
2008**

*For more  
information contact  
Sharon on  
02 6884 2275*

**Calling all  
interested  
persons  
wishing to join  
the RFCS NSW  
Central West**

**LOCAL  
ADVISORY  
GROUPS**

**Members would  
support local staff  
and become  
important members  
of our association.**

**For additional  
information  
contact the CEO  
Jeff Caldbeck on  
02 6884 2275**

## Climate Change Adjustment Program (CCAP)

The CCAP is a component of the "Australia's Farming Future" (AFF) initiative, providing \$130 million over four years to help primary producers adapt and respond to climate change

CCAP will assist primary producers in financial difficulty, who are, or are likely to be adversely impacted by climate change, including those experiencing hardship caused by drought, to obtain professional advice, training, re-establishment grants.

The CCAP will assist farm families to adjust their businesses to manage the impacts of climate change and to set goals and take action to improve their long term financial circumstance either within or outside of agriculture.

The other two components of AFF initiatives are:

- Climate Change Adaptation Partnerships Program—to increase primary producers' understanding of climate change impacts and improve on-farm preparedness
- Climate Change and Productivity Research Program—to undertake research on managing emissions and adaptation

Rural Clients are encouraged to make an appointment with the local RFCs to discuss options available to them under this program. Or visit: [www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture](http://www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture) or call 1800 638 746.

### Exceptional Circumstances (EC) declared areas

The Australian Government announced on 19 August 2008 that it had accepted all 36 recommendations provided by the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) and had agreed to extend assistance for 32 EC-declared areas in NSW, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia.

However concerns and some mixed messages from farmers in the northern region of NSW, including the Gilgandra,

Coonabrabran, Narrabri and Bingara areas about the closure of Exceptional Circumstances (EC) assistance in the areas as of 30/09/08.

Some clients within this area have not been rolled over for EC. Clients within these marginal areas are encouraged to contact their local RFC for information and assistance.

### Transitional Income Support (TIS)

Both Transitional Income Support (TIS) and the Climate Change Adjustment Program (CCAP) are now government policy.

The Transitional Income Support Program assists farm families who are in serious financial difficulty or who are recovering from drought, while they adapt to changing circumstances, including climate change.

Transitional Income Support is not a replacement for Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Relief Payments. The program is available to all farmers, including those coming out of EC declarations, who may still find it difficult to put food on the table.

Transitional Income Support is additional assistance targeted at the farmers in most need.

The Transitional Income Support program is only available until 30 June 2009. Further assistance after this date is being considered in the current Drought Policy Review.

Access to professional advice and training and re-establishment assistance is available under the Climate Change Adjustment Program for farmers participating in the Transitional Income Support program.

Rural Financial Counsellors' can assist eligible farmers to take action to improve their long term financial position.

**NB: Please DO NOT self assess.**