



**Minister Steve Whan**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Rural Affairs

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **NSW Government finalises Dunedoo-Mudgee EC application**

Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, today said the NSW Government had finalised an Exceptional Circumstances (EC) drought assistance application to have EC reinstated in the Dunedoo and Mudgee districts.

“The application is now with the Federal Government for consideration,” Minister Whan said.

“It demonstrates that the proposed area experienced a rare drought event that had a severe and prolonged impact on the financial viability of individual primary producers, local economic activity and environmental conditions within the region.

“Farmers in an area roughly bounded by Molong, Wellington, Geurie, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Tambar Springs, Cassilis, Ulan, Bylong, Rylstone and Hill End are seeking reinstatement for EC drought relief.

“It is estimated that there are around 1,600 producers in the application area.”

Minister Whan said in March and April last year the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) removed the area’s EC status on the basis that conditions had improved for the majority of producers across the area.

“At the request of local farmers a case has been made to have NRAC consider reinstatement, they believe conditions rapidly deteriorated as a result of the exceptionally hot, dry conditions in 2009.

“The Central West and the Central North Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA), the Central West Drought Action Group, and Industry and Investment NSW worked together on the application which includes details on rainfall, crop production and fodder supplies.

“The NSW Government’s role in EC is to prepare and lodge applications. EC is a Commonwealth drought assistance measure.”

Latest drought figures show 65.7% of the State remains in drought, a drop of 16% since last month.

The area of NSW considered satisfactory is 6.2% while 28.1% of NSW is considered marginal.

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