



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

MEDIA RELEASE

EC extension is great news for farmers

February 25, 2010

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, today welcomed the decision by Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke to extend Exceptional Circumstances (EC) in 14 NSW areas for a further 12 months.

"This is great news for our State's farmers in these areas, who continue to battle the effects of the drought every day," Mr Whan said.

"While many areas have received good rain this year that has renewed pastures and replenished water supplies, drought is still a major concern for farmers.

"The Federal Government's decision to accept the recommendation by the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) to extend EC assistance for another twelve months is a logical and welcome decision.

"It will take much more rain and an eventual improvement in cash flow before we can expect farmers in the worst drought affected regions to get back on their feet.

"Having another twelve months to get back to normal operations will help many of those producers who are on the brink of survival stay on the land.

"I am disappointed that Hume did not receive this extension and I have asked my Department to review the case and determine whether or not an appeal should be lodged," Mr Whan said.

EC assistance will be extended in the following areas:

1. Braidwood area (including towns of Araluen, Boro, Braidwood, Bungendore, Captains Flat, Hoskinstown, Majors Creek and Reidsdale)
2. Condobolin area (including towns of Albert, Derriwong, Fifield and Tottenham)
3. Condobolin-Narrandera area (including towns of Burcher, Lake Cargelligo, Naradhan, Rankins Springs, Ungarie and West Wyalong)
4. Dubbo Revised area (including towns of Fairview and Wyanga)
5. Forbes area (including towns of Bedgerebong, Bogan Gate, Bumbaldry, Caragabal, Forbes, Greenethorpe, Grenfell, Nelungaloo, Parkes, Trundle and Yarrabandai)
6. Goulburn-Yass area (including towns of Crookwell, Goulburn, Murrumbateman, Taralga and Yass)
7. Gundagai area (including towns of Adelong, Batlow, Brungle, Cabramurra, Gilmore, Gocup, Mount Horeb, Tumblong, Tumut and Yarrangobilly)
8. Hay area (including towns of Carrathool, Goolgowi, Hay and Maude)
9. Majority Western Division area (including towns of Broken Hill, Cobar, Ivanhoe, Menindee, Tibooburra, White Cliffs and Wilcannia)
10. Molong Revised area (including towns of Alectown, Mickibri and Yetheria)
11. Nyngan Revised area (including towns of Bobadah, Buddabadah, Girilambone, Hermidale and Mullengudgery)
12. Riverina area (including towns of Barham, Deniliquin, Finley, Jerilderie, Oaklands, Tocumwal, Wakool and Wanganella)
13. South West Slopes and Plains area (including towns of Coolamon, Cootamundra, Culcairn, Griffith, Henty, Junee, Leeton, Narrandera, Temora, The Rock and Wagga Wagga)
14. Young area (including towns of Barmedman, Boorowa, Harden, Koorawatha, Murrumburrah and Young)