



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

22nd July 2005

# Windsor welcomes EC announcement - Local regions included

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the announcement today by the new Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Peter McGauran that Exceptional Circumstances drought assistance has been extended for another 12 months in an additional 21 regions including four local regions.

“I am very pleased to see that the new Minister has accepted the advice of the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) and declared the areas of Armidale, Central North-North West (excluding crop producers) Northern New England and North East Northern New England as being eligible for EC assistance.

Despite some recent good rains, farmers in these areas will not see the benefits for quite some time yet and need the support to get them through.

I thank the Minister and the Federal Government for their support of this important industry and ask that farmers who have concerns about their situation to contact me for assistance,” Mr Windsor said.