



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Windsor welcomes EC assistance for Bundarra farmers

News that farmers in the Bundarra area will now be eligible to apply for Exceptional Circumstance assistance has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke made the announcement today after accepting the advice of the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) having completed their review and making their recommendation to him.

Mr Windsor said the announcement will help relieve some of the pressure being felt by farmers and their families in the Bundarra area.

“It’s been a battle for the Bundarra farmers to get their area recognised under the Exceptional Circumstance criteria however their persistence has been rewarded.

“The area has not seen better conditions to the degree that other parts of the region around it have but under the EC criteria they have been bundled in with these other areas.

“This has meant that they have had to reduce the size of the area that the application covers so that the EC criteria could be met for the area hardest hit by the drought conditions all of which took more time than was initially hoped.

“I congratulate all those involved in getting the area’s EC application together and now encourage individual farmers in the area to get their personal applications in to Centrelink as quickly as possible for assessment so that they can access the support available to them under the EC programs.

“I also thank Minister Burke for accepting NRAC’s recommendation,” Mr Windsor said.