



## AgForce pays tribute to ABC newsmen

AgForce president Brent Finlay on behalf of AgForce members and staff extends his deepest sympathies to our friends at the ABC on this unimaginably sad day.

The news of the loss of three of the ABC's finest has saddened all at AgForce - both those who knew them, and those who simply marvelled at the magic television they made.

Our most heartfelt thoughts go to the family of Brisbane-based cameraman John Bean, particularly John's wife Landline reporter Pip Courtney. Together Pip and John shared a deep passion for beautiful pictures and stories, and for each other.

"John was the warm, friendly cameraman who put nervous bushies at ease, and his remarkable pictures shared our love of the land with everyone," Mr Finlay said.

"So many AgForce members have opened up their homes and hearts for Pip on her travels around Queensland, and today we want her to know we are thinking of her."

Veteran journalist Paul Lockyer will also be missed for his rare talent in bringing the news of the bush and its people to city audiences with such credibility and empathy.

"Here in Queensland, who can forget Paul's recent work in Grantham the day after the terrible floods ripped through the town? Paul had a unique ability to deliver the facts about what was going on in rural Australia, but also the emotion of its people. We thank him for that," Mr Finlay said.

Mr Finlay said AgForce also wanted to pay tribute to ABC pilot Gary Ticehurst, who played an integral part in the ABC's presence in rural Australia.

**For comment, contact Brent Finlay on 0414 415 361.**

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**Who is AgForce?** AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.