



Advancing Rural Queensland

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## AgForce urging producers to access disaster help

Farm lobby group AgForce has welcomed news that Federal government disaster relief assistance will now be available until June 30, 2012 for primary producers still recovering from last year's disastrous Summer.

AgForce CEO Robert Walker thanked Tim Mulherin, Queensland minister for Agriculture for supporting the bid to have Category C and D assistance under Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements extended for another six months.

"We have members whose businesses and infrastructure have still not recovered from last year's floods and cyclones and this extra time will make that process easier for them.

"The severity of damage sustained, a wet winter and a shortage of contractors to complete repairs are just some of the reasons the recovery process on farms and properties has been delayed."

Despite the extension of time, Mr Walker urged primary producers to make application now or risk missing out on financial help.

"All too often producers deserve this assistance but leave their run too late to compile their applications. Governments can't extend the use of taxpayer dollars forever so we encourage producers to contact the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority urgently to access this help."

Category C assistance consists of grants up to \$25,000 for eligible small business and Category D assistance includes special concessional loans of up to \$650,000 for eligible businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations suffering extreme damage, with a grant component of up to \$50,000.

To find out more about recovery grants and concessional loans contact QRAA on 1800 623 946 [www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au)

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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.