



The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 27 April 2015

HELP ON HAND FOR STORM-AFFECTED FARMERS

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, today announced that the NSW Government has committed additional resources, including air support, to assist farmers affected by this week's severe storms.

"I have deployed extra resources to help in the mammoth effort of helping those, still isolated, and impacted by floodwaters," Mr Blair said.

"The Rural Assistance Authority is assisting farmers and small businesses in declared areas to access support.

"Today, a helicopter is conducting sweeping assessments of affected areas, organising fodder drops and assisting those in areas which are still inaccessible by vehicle.

"I have also requested assistance from Marine Rescue to assist farmers who are accessible only by boat."

Mr Blair said the Singleton Agriculture Coordination Centre is now open to assist farmers with all non-emergency requests, including moving stock out of floodwaters and fodder requests as well as reporting agricultural damage.

"Local Land Services is also helping address concerns about the welfare of stock stranded and standing in water - veterinary assistance is available and emergency fodder is on hand to provide affected animals as soon as the flood water subsides," Mr Blair said.

"However, if people have specific animal related concerns that are the result of power outages, or if anyone requires emergency assistance, they should make contact with the SES on 132500 to find out what assistance can be provided.

"At this stage, it is too early to obtain an accurate assessment of damage however we expect significant stock losses, infrastructure damage and crop and pasture losses.

"Department of Primary Industries' Rural Resilience Officers and Rural Support Workers are on the ground to provide social support to aid in the recovery, and to link farming communities to relevant service providers."

Support phone numbers:

- **SES: 132 500; and**
- **Rural Assistance Authority: 1800 678 593.**

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