



## AgForce urges Government to adopt drought measures

THE National Farmers Federation (NFF), in conjunction with AgForce Queensland and other key farming groups has today, in Canberra, announced urgent assistance measures being sought from the Federal Government in response to the deepening drought crisis.

The proposed Drought Relief Package, developed through extensive consultation with State Farming Organisations acting on behalf of their grassroots members, has been identified as fundamental to guide the agriculture industry through this natural disaster.

Key elements of the proposed package include new and updated existing measures which not only seek to address the immediate need to support vulnerable primary producers throughout the drought event, but also longer term measures and initiatives to assist farming families and farming communities.

AgForce General President, Ian Burnett, said with approximately 70 per cent of Queensland, equating to 6500 rural properties, in drought support from the Federal Government was now critical.

“Agriculture is a long-term viable industry which has achieved excellent productivity gains in the past and does not receive much direct assistance or tariff protection from the Government relative to our overseas competitors,” Mr Burnett said.

“We are one of the key pillars of the Australian economy, however we are now faced with a circumstance that is well beyond what could be reasonably expected of our primary producers to prepare for within their business modelling.

“We most certainly recognise the need for long-term drought policy solutions to encourage an even greater ability for our industry to prepare for such events however, given the brutality of this drought, our farmers are vulnerable with most not able to qualify for even basic emergency welfare assistance.

“We urge Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, and his Cabinet colleagues to recognise the need to help enable our industry to move beyond this drought.”

- For details of the proposed Drought Relief Package go to:
- [Two page summary – drought package](#)
- [Full summary](#)

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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.