



Producers back online in more ways than one

Producers impacted by Cyclone Yasi or flooding can now start powering up, double-clicking and getting back online, thanks to a donation of twenty computers to state farming group AgForce.

AgForce Projects technical leader Graeme Bell said the Department of Environment and Resource Management at Indooroopilly have kindly donated 20 computers to help those impacted by floods get back online.

“AgForce’s priority after these natural disasters is to rebuild the networks that keep communities connected, from roads to the technology that keeps modern businesses running.

“Computers help isolated communities keep in touch with family and friends and provide valuable resources to students studying through long distance education, such as School of the Air.

“To help with this AgForce would like to distribute these three-year-old desktop computers to flood or cyclone affected producers, who may have lost computer gear in these events,” Mr Bell said.

Mr Bell said computers are now an essential tool in running an agribusiness, from getting information about the weather, checking cattle sales, finding details about farming equipment and mapping their property including fences and water points.

“Last year, more than 370 producers in flood and cyclone-impacted regions attended computer mapping and GPS workshops held through AgForce Projects to help them improve their property management skills.

“Losing their computers through natural disaster means this important information about producers’ business and properties could have been lost, and also puts producers at risk of rebuilding infrastructure that does not comply with vegetation management legislation.

“To further help with this, AgForce Projects is offering free tools to get producers’ livelihoods back on track. We have accessed 2011 Landsat satellite imagery depicting flooding impacts and developed an easy-to-use tool to help assess property damage and build a pre and post-disaster property condition report, property map and rebuilding plan,” Mr Bell said.

The computers will have Windows XP and Office 2007 installed, courtesy of Microsoft and the Queensland IT Flood Relief Team.

“We urge impacted producers to get in touch with AgForce so they can get not only their computers back online, but their businesses as well.”

To find out more, contact AgForce on (07) 3236 3100.

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