



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

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Councillor Tanya Milligan
Mayor
Lockyer Valley Regional Council
PO Box 82
GATTON QLD 4343



Dear Mayor

I am writing to you regarding the recent drought declaration of your local government area and the implications for primary producers in those areas.

This declaration was made on the recommendation of the Local Drought Committee in your region, which is comprised of local producers and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) staff with expertise on local conditions, and they considered that the area met the criteria to be drought declared.

A drought declaration means a range of assistance measures become available for primary producers including:

- freight subsidies for the movement of fodder and water, and the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). DRAS provides up to \$20 000 per year (up to \$30 000 if the producer has an approved Drought Management Plan). This assistance is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- land rent rebates for rural leases and water licence fee waivers administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Producers do not need to take any action to receive land rent rebates and water licence fee assistance if they are eligible. Eligible producers will be informed by mail of this assistance
- for producers who have no water to pump, or have severely restricted access to water, the Drought Relief from Electricity Charges program provides relief from supply charges on electricity accounts used to pump water for farm or irrigation purposes. Producers seeking fee relief should contact Energy Queensland on 13 10 46 to arrange a change to the appropriate tariff.

In addition to the above assistance to primary producers, the Palaszczuk Government's Drought Assistance Package also provides a range of assistance measures for droughted families and communities.

Further information on drought assistance can be found on the DAF website at www.daf.qld.gov.au and producers seeking more information on DRAS can contact the DAF Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, I encourage you to contact Mr Vern Rudwick, Director Land Management in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on telephone 07 3096 6200 or by email at vern.rudwick@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Furner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries