



**Minister Steve Whan**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Rural Affairs

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Report farm flood damage in Walgett and Coonamble

31 December 2009

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, today urged farmers in the Walgett and Coonamble districts to report flood damage so the areas could be quickly assessed for the need for Agricultural Natural Disaster Assistance.

“Walgett and Coonamble have received significant rainfall since Christmas and I would like to encourage all affected farmers in these areas to report their damage, so we can speed up the assessment process for Natural Disaster Assistance,” Mr Whan said.

“Flood damage can include stock and fodder losses, and damage to crops, pastures, fencing and other farm infrastructure.

“Affected farmers should report their damage to Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) Emergency Hotline on **1800 814 647**.

“So far flood damage reported has resulted in Narrabri and Brewarrina becoming eligible to receive Agricultural Natural Disaster Assistance, which was announced by the Premier today.

“We all hope that Walgett and Coonamble escaped the damage caused by flooding in surrounding areas, but if not, the NSW Government will assess the damage and provide assistance.

“If the assistance threshold can be reached, eligible farmers will soon be able to access to loans of up to \$130,000 at 2.56% interest per annum, with a two-year interest and payment free period.

“If farmers are currently away from their property for a Christmas break, they should arrange to get somebody to check their farm as soon as possible.”

Mr Whan thanked staff from I&I NSW and Livestock Pest and Health Authority (LHPA) for their efforts throughout the Christmas break in assisting affected landholders and the State Emergency Service (SES) response.

“A dedicated team of staff including vets, local LHPA rangers and emergency response staff have been on deck throughout the Christmas break working at Brewarrina, Coonamble, Dubbo and Orange,” he said.

“They have worked around the clock supporting the SES, carrying out damage assessments, assisting landholders and coordinating fodder drops.

“Just a week ago many of these same people were looking forward to a well-earned break following a string of bushfire emergencies – it just shows how dedicated they are to their jobs and serving our State.”

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