

Drought Rate Rebate scheme closing soon

Primary producers have until 30 September 2008 to apply for a rebate of 50 per cent on their paid Local Government rates, under the Drought Rate Rebate scheme administered by QRAA.

QRAA Chief Executive Officer, Colin Holden, said the Drought Rate Rebate scheme, which commenced in March 2007, is providing valuable financial assistance to producers who have been severely impacted by exceptional drought conditions.

“Since the commencement of the scheme, more than \$7.1 million in financial assistance has been provided to drought affected primary producers with 96 per cent of applicants being approved the rebate,” Mr Holden said.

“I encourage primary producers, who have been receiving Exceptional Circumstance Relief Payments from Centrelink, to submit their applications for rebates on rates notices issued between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2008 if they have not yet done so,” Mr Holden said.

“The 50 per cent rebate is calculated on the total amount of the applicants paid rates notice, from 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2008, excluding excess water consumption or accrued interest on overdue rates.”

To be eligible for the assistance, applicants must have been receiving Exceptional Circumstance Relief Payments from Centrelink within 90 days immediately before the issue date of the rates notice and have paid the rates notice in full for a primary production property or an off farm residence (where there is no residence or habitable residence on the primary production property) in an Exceptional Circumstance declared area.

“When submitting an application to QRAA, producers must provide evidence of payment of their rates notice as well as an Income Statement or letter from Centrelink providing evidence of Exceptional Circumstance Relief Payments,” he said.

“The Drought Rate Rebate scheme closes on 30 September 2008 and applications will not be accepted after this deadline.”

An Income Statement or letter confirming receipt of Exceptional Circumstance Relief Payments can be obtained by contacting Centrelink on 13 23 16. An Exceptional Circumstance Certificate cannot be accepted by QRAA as being equivalent to an Income Statement.

Further information about the Drought Rate Rebate Scheme, including the guidelines and application form can be found on the QRAA website at www.graa.qld.gov.au or by contacting QRAA on Freecall 1800 623 946.

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Date: 10 September 2008