

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT - 27TH/28TH JANUARY 2020

Dear member

I refer to KCGO original email/post to web page of 4th February regarding the above weather event and assistance sought from growers at the time surrounding damage incurred and approximate cost to rectify.

Following discussions with office of the Member for The Burdekin, Dale Last, as well as Burdekin Shire Council, it has been established that any representation for possible assistance under "Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements" (DRFA) via Qld Government Reconstruction Authority for the agricultural industry needs to be initiated by Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

Contact has been made with Director Northern Region of DAF and the following information summary has been provided.

- There is presently no current DRFA "activation" for primary producers in relation to the 2020 rain event – Burdekin Shire.
- Only DRFA assistance measures that have been "activated" are Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) and Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) which are applicable to local/state government only.
- The previous DRFA activation and support provisions ie. grants/concessional low interest rate loans associated with the 2019 monsoonal flood event are discrete and have no bearing to the 2020 rain event.

In order to seek DAF's assistance in commencing assessment process with an aim of activation for "Special Assistance (Category C) – Community Recovery Package", which includes Primary Producer grants, the following supporting information regarding impacts from the 2020 rain event will be required.

- Impacted property details ie. rural address of farm/s impacted
- Nature and scope of impacts
- Preferred contact details for farming enterprise impacted
- Approximate cost estimate to rectify damage
- Date stamped photographs/jpeg file/video etc of damage (if available)

DAF Officers will then undertake field based impact assessments and from there can determine how best to move forward.

By way of background DRFA Category C assistance, the level at which cash grants come into play, requires the Premier to seek approval from the Prime Minister. Assistance provisions are then administered through QRIDA. Category C guidelines include the requirement that relevant States and Territories complete an evidentiary questionnaire to accompany any request to activate Category C. The questionnaire requires the collation of significant data and qualitative information in order to demonstrate an area has been sufficiently impacted as to meet eligibility thresholds.

In determining the severity of impact on the region, community or sector, the State must demonstrate the following impacts for the Commonwealth to agree to cost sharing Cat C measures:

Standard Recovery Grants (up to \$10,000) for primary producers:

- More than 15% of primary producers in the sector have been directly affected,
- Those primary producers affected have incurred losses worth more than 10% of the Total Gross Value of Agricultural Production (TGVAP) in the sector, and

- Primary producer viability or production in the sector is at risk of disruption beyond the current season.

The eligibility criteria for 'exceptional circumstance recovery grants' (up to \$25,000) for primary producers are higher again.

There is also the option of a Category B activation or the DAF looking at Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declarations however support provisions in these cases are largely based around freight subsidies and access to low interest loans up to \$250,000. There is no provision for cash grants.

Accordingly it is critical that any agricultural entity effected by 2020 weather event report details of damage incurred. All four collectives within the Burdekin region will be seeking information from *their* members and making representation to DAF. So tell your agricultural neighbours, family, relations, friends that if they have sustained damage to get in contact with their respective collective/associated agricultural organisation.

Accordingly it would be appreciated if members, if you have not already done so, provide the required details by email to this office as well as responding to the following confirmation.

I/we hereby agree for the information that I/we have supplied to KCGO to be made available to representatives of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to assist in efforts to secure "Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements". YES/NO (delete that is not applicable)

Alternatively when replying to email simply type "YES" or "NO"

As always if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Les Elphinstone

Manager / Company Secretary

Kalamia Cane Growers Organisation Ltd

Kalagro Ltd

140 Young Street Ayr Qld 4807

PO Box 597 Ayr Qld 4807

Tel: 07 4783 1312

Mob: 0447 128 312

Email: manager@kalagro.com.au