



**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**

**Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Small Business**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday, 9 January 2012

### **HELP ON ITS WAY FOR LACHLAN PRODUCERS**

Producers in the Bogan, Lachlan, Forbes and Parkes Shires whose farm operations were impacted by a severe hail storm on 29 November are urged to apply for Agricultural Natural Disaster Assistance, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson said today.

“The severe hailstorm caused more than \$4 million in damage to 31 properties,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Winds gusts of up to 104 km/h caused extensive damage to farm infrastructure, including woolsheds, silos, hay sheds and storage sheds.

“A large area of pasture and cropping country has been affected, with some 6,000 hectares of unharvested crop completely destroyed.

“Flying debris and trees also caused an estimated \$500,000 worth of damage to fences and extensive damage to machinery, field bins and stock feeders.

“An area spanning 450,000 hectares has now been declared as an Agricultural Natural Disaster zone.”

Ms Hodgkinson said affected producers are urged to apply for assistance via the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

“The assistance comes in the form of loans of up to \$130,000, at 2.67 per cent interest per annum, with a two year interest and repayment free period,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The loans provide for replacement or repairs to property and farm infrastructure.”

Potential applicants should contact the RAA toll-free on 1800 678 593 or visit [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au) to clarify eligibility criteria, or any other issues relating to this assistance.