



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 9 January 2012

**NORTH EAST TUMBARUMBA DECLARED AGRICULTURAL
DISASTER AREA**

The north east Tumbarumba Shire has been declared an Agricultural Natural Disaster area following a series of severe hail storms on 29 November 2011, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson said today.

“Producers whose farm operations were impacted by the severe hail storm can now apply for Agricultural Natural Disaster Assistance,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The severe hail storm caused around \$650,000 in damage to vineyard and apple crops across a 28 hectare area.

“Wine producers have reported widespread damage to canes and developing grapes, with losses ranging from ten to forty per cent.

“The storm has also caused significant damage to apple trees and will result in a drop in the quality of the juice grade.”

Ms Hodgkinson said the Agricultural Natural Disaster Assistance measures will help affected producers get back on their feet.

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

“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.

“The loans provide for replacement or repairs to property and farm infrastructure, including damage to orchard crops and fruit trees.”

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