MEDIA RELEASE

DROUGHT FUNDING FOR KEMPSEY SHIRE

Kempsey Shire Council has today been allocated $1 million from the Coalition Government after it extended the Drought Communities Programme.

Federal Member for Cowper Pat Conaghan said the extension came due to lower than average rainfall across the Kempsey Shire over summer.

“This is a good start to getting the Kempsey Shire further assistance as the area is still doing it tough due to the drought and Spring bushfires,” he said.

“Kempsey Shire Council will be able to use this drought funding to build infrastructure, do water projects or help support the community through events or employing local support officers.

“I thank Minister for Drought David Littleproud for this funding for Kempsey, however I will continue to advocate for nearby Port Macquarie-Hastings and Nambucca Valley as they are also experiencing significant rain deficiency as well.”

In determining a local government area’s (LGA) eligibility for the Drought Communities Programme (DCP), the Federal Government assesses rainfall deficiency data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology and population and industry data, particularly an area’s reliance on agricultural industries.

Minister for Drought David Littleproud said the Government is committed to providing increased support to local governments and communities experiencing hardship due to drought. A total of 52 LGAs were added to the DCP today.

“Drought doesn’t just hurt farmers; it hurts small businesses and the wider community as well, but with DCP Extension funding we can keep money flowing through affected areas,” Minister Littleproud said.

“So far, the DCP Extension has funded over 300 projects, such as the potable water supply projects, local tourism assets and employing local drought support officers.

“The Government is dedicated to supporting communities facing hardship due to drought and will continue to monitor the program, and weather conditions across the country to ensure we are serving those in need.”

To see a list of eligible LGAs visit https://business.gov.au/dcp

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