



Media Release

Corporate Communications

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ANZ supports drought-affected farmers and rural communities

ANZ today reaffirmed its support of farmers and communities affected by the severe drought conditions currently being experienced across rural Australia.

ANZ Managing Director, Regional, Rural and Small Business Banking, Mr Rob Goudswaard said ANZ continued to assist viable farmers and help them manage through the drought.

"Our ANZ Managers are working with their customers and developing strategies to manage their finances through the drought," Mr Goudswaard said. "Our aim is to help customers in rural and regional Australia with their short-term cash flow and long-term sustainability.

"We recognise that adverse seasonal conditions are a normal and cyclical event in Australian agriculture which should be considered as part of long-term financial planning and drought preparedness.

"However it is inevitable that adverse events will impact on the short-term trading performance of ANZ's farm customers from time to time. To help farmers and other businesses in drought-affected communities manage financially through the particularly harsh conditions this year, ANZ has a range of relief options available."

In the short or medium term to ease hardship due to the drought, ANZ can offer relief such as:

- capitalising interest or establishing interest-only repayments on loans;
- loan restructuring to minimise financial outgoings during this adverse trading period and waiving associated fees;
- provision of additional carry-on finance to meet short-term needs;
- waiving fees associated with accessing deposit funds ahead of the maturity date.

Mr Goudswaard encouraged customers affected by the drought to continue to approach ANZ as soon as practical to discuss the likely impact on their business or personal circumstances.

"We are committed to supporting our customers and their communities and we will continue our policy of case-by-case assessment of customer needs to help them through this difficult period," Mr Goudswaard said.

Customers affected by the drought who wish to discuss the relief arrangements should continue to contact their ANZ representative or local branch.

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