



Media Release

Corporate Communications
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ANZ reaffirms its commitment to customers affected by severe drought

ANZ today reaffirmed its commitment to customers and communities affected by drought, including those in farming districts which are experiencing low water allocations this year.

ANZ Managing Director, Regional, Rural and Small Business Banking, Mr Rob Goudswaard said ANZ was aware of the difficulties being faced by farmers and the communities which rely on farming during the unprecedented drought.

"While the recent announcement regarding the potential for a zero opening allocation in the Murray Darling system is disappointing for everyone, it has only served to reinforce ANZ's commitment to help our customers wherever possible manage these exceptionally tough times," Mr Goudswaard said.

"We will continue to look at the individual needs of our customers to help them manage their businesses and return to pre-drought production levels."

ANZ is working with customers to develop and implement strategies to manage the financial burden caused by the drought. ANZ supports customers through a unique three-pronged drought plan, which includes direct financial consultation, short-term financial relief and community grants.

Specifically ANZ is offering relief such as:

- interest payment deferment or establishment of interest-only repayments on loans;
- loan restructuring to minimise financial outgoings during 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;
- a Direct Financial Consultation session with a qualified financial planner to discuss and plan options; and
- cash grants provided through Seeds of Renewal, a grants program that helps small rural communities affected by drought in Exceptional Circumstance (EC) declared areas.

Mr Goudswaard said: "We recognise the important role we have to play with our customers in challenging times such as these. We will continue to provide assistance that is relevant and timely to help these customers and their communities face the ongoing challenges associated with the drought."

ANZ also acknowledges the financial support provided to farmers under both Federal and State Government drought assistance programs which have greatly assisted customers to better manage the adverse consequences of drought.

ANZ encourages customers affected by drought to talk to their ANZ representative or local branch as early as possible to discuss their needs.

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