



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

Monday November 20, 2006

First EC application to be lodged soon.

November 30th is the target date set for the first Exceptional Circumstances (EC) application to be lodged with the Federal government on behalf of farmers in the Local Government Association areas of the Murraylands and Murray Mallee.

Last Wednesday, at the first meeting of the Murraylands Drought Response Group (MDRG), the committee formed following the drought forum in Murray Bridge on November 1st, members resolved to pull out all stops in an effort to get the region declared. The MDRG builds on the ongoing activities of the Regional Facilitation Group.

This in turn allows individual farmers and other rural business people within the declared area to lodge their own applications for assistance.

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, who organised the original forum and is a member of the new committee, said he was pleased with the way all involved groups were working together on the urgent matter.

Individual case studies from around the region were being assembled to help identify the areas most affected.

Mr Pederick said this would give the initial application its best chance of success, paving the way for farmers to apply.

A 'buffer zone' to pick up farmers in areas between EC declared regions would simplify the defining of the initial EC application zone.

Chairman of MDRG John Berger said in broad terms the general area being considered was the Murraylands and Murray Mallee. Mr Berger stressed even if the application were successful, it did not guarantee everyone within the region would benefit as each individual case would be considered on its own merits.

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