

Media Release



31 October 2018

Council offers financial relief to farmers during drought

Local farmers will receive financial support from Camden Council as the area continues to struggle through one of the worst droughts on record.

At last night's meeting Council committed to the Farmland Financial Assistance Package valued at \$100,000 to provide immediate help to farmers in our community impacted by the drought.

Mayor Peter Sidgreaves said the package included initiatives that would assist farmers immediately and provided an improved policy position that in the future would allow farmers more time to pay when times are tougher during extended drought conditions.

"The Camden Local Government Area is currently in drought and our pockets of rural land for primary production are decreasing, so we want to provide some relief to help these families make ends meet," Cr Sidgreaves said.

"This is about making sure there is no undue pressure on farmers from Council where possible," he said.

The assistance package includes a one-off \$500 donation to properties who qualify for farmland rating, currently totalling \$100,000.

Further assistance measures include arrangements to pay rates over extended periods, removing interest on late rates and ensuring land keeps its farmland rating status even if stock levels fall below the existing policy thresholds.

This package follows a \$10,000 donation made by Council to the Rotary Club of Narellan's farmer support drive to assist a number of farmers located within the Camden area.

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