

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Response to correspondence - Review of the Drought relief Assistance Scheme and other drought assistance measures
Date: Tuesday, 25 August 2015 12:47:16 PM



Burdekin Shire Council

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Your reference: 11.1.05

Ms. Jennifer Howard MP,
Chair,
And
Mr. Rob Hansen,
The Research Director,
Agriculture and Environment Committee,
Parliament House,
Brisbane, 4000.

Dear Ms. Howard and Mr. Hansen,

Thank you for your letter dated 10th August, 2015, inviting me to participate in a series of reviews your Committee will conduct of key Queensland Government drought assistance measures.

On behalf of Burdekin Shire Council, I thank you for providing Council with the opportunity for comment under the review, and provide the following submission.

This Shire is not currently drought declared; however, the failure of seasonal rain during the past two years is leading us toward a serious situation for farmers and graziers or primary production in general. As a responsible Council, we have advised residents of this community to consider their individual situations and eligibility for 'Individually Droughted Property' (IDP) declaration.

This Shire has a mix of intensive irrigated agriculture farming, dependent on a reducing Burdekin Falls Dam storage and groundwater resource, as well as rangelands grazing interests reliant on overland water capture of rain in their private dams which are also reducing and in some cases dry.

The Parliamentary Committee is to be commended for realising the severity and extent of the current drought situation, and the financial assistance measures provided to those in need.

As input to this review, this submission emphasises the importance to those in need of support to retain their dignity by an ability to meet payments due.

I refer in particular to funding programmes and a need for consideration in supporting the direct payment to local authorities for annual property rates on lands under drought recognition.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment!

Yours sincerely,

Bill

Bill Lewis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council

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