



Rabobank

*Media Release
January 14, 2011*

Rabobank support for Australian clients affected by floods

Agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank Australia has urged clients impacted by the flooding in Queensland, New South Wales and other parts of Australia to contact the bank for assistance where required.

Rabobank general manager Rural Australia Peter Knoblanche said clients in applicable circumstances would be eligible for a range of support measures, previously announced by the bank.

These include:

- deferral of scheduled loan payments
- waiving of break costs on early redemption of Farm Management Deposits
- waiving of fees on loan increases necessary to assist in rebuilding operations and
- waiving of fees for equipment finance contract variations.

Rabobank has also announced it will donate \$100,000 towards flood relief in affected rural areas.

In addition, the bank is expanding its employee Workplace Giving program to include a number of flood relief charities, with staff contributions to be matched by Rabobank. Its Community Leave program, providing employee volunteering in the community, would also be extended for help with flood recovery.

Mr Knoblanche said Rabobank's priority was the wellbeing of its clients and the bank would work directly with clients in affected areas to help support them through current difficulties.

"As people in affected areas begin to embark on the enormous task of recovering and rebuilding from the devastating floods in coming weeks, the full extent of damage to agricultural producers will become more apparent," he said.

"This flood disaster is among the worst in recent history and agriculture has undoubtedly felt the brunt of a lot of the damage. However, I would like to reassure affected clients that, as a bank which has a single focus on agriculture, we consider it a normal part of our business to work with clients who are affected by weather, even extreme weather events such as these."

Although Rabobank's own premises in Brisbane, Toowoomba and Goondiwindi had been evacuated due to the floods, Mr Knoblanche said the bank's staff in all flood-affected areas had been attempting to make personal contact with clients to check on their wellbeing and offer assistance and support wherever possible.



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Mr Knoblanche said impacted clients who have concerns and had not yet spoken to the bank should contact their rural manager directly, at their local branch where possible, or phone the bank on 1800 025 484.

Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 110 years' experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 48 countries, servicing the needs of more than nine million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1600 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is one of Australasia's leading rural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region's food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 85 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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