



**Rabobank**

**Media Release  
January 20, 2014**

## ***Rabobank announces bushfire support measures***

Agribusiness specialist Rabobank has announced a range of support measures which will be made available to farming clients impacted by bushfires across regional Australia.

Rabobank Australia & New Zealand acting CEO Peter Knoblanche said bushfire activity throughout southern mainland Australia was impacting on agricultural regions, with the full extent of damage to farming enterprises yet to be known.

“While we are hopeful that the onset of cooler weather conditions will bring the fire activity under control, the fires have spread into agricultural areas in a number of regions in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, with some loss of livestock and damage to dwellings, pasture and farm infrastructure,” he said.

Areas of particular concern included the Grampians, Mallee and Gippsland in Victoria, Minnimbah near Wagga Wagga in New South Wales and parts of the Barossa Valley, Eden Valley and Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Mr Knoblanche said the bank was progressively making contact with clients in bushfire-affected areas to check on their safety and wellbeing and gauge the extent of any damage to their enterprises.

He urged any farming clients impacted by bushfires, who had not already been contacted by their local branch staff, to contact the bank for assistance where required.

Mr Knoblanche said the bank would work directly with clients in affected areas to help support them through any difficulties resulting from fire damage.

Clients in applicable circumstances would be eligible for a range of support measures, including:

- 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.

Any Rabobank clients affected by bushfires who have concerns and have not yet spoken to the bank should contact their local branch or phone Rabobank on 1800 025 484.

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**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 42 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 93 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.**

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