The Hon Michael Keenan MP
Minister for Justice
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter Terrorism

The Hon Troy Grant MP
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Police

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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Recovery grants extended to more flood-affected New South Wales farmers, small businesses and non-profit organisations

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan and New South Wales Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant today announced that recovery grants have been extended to additional communities severely affected by the North Coast floods.

The assistance is being provided through the Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

Minister Keenan said the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments have been working closely to assess the impact of damage caused by the floods that followed Tropical Cyclone Debbie to ensure flood-affected primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations can access recovery assistance.

“Today’s announcement extends recovery grants to eligible industry specific primary producers in Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Richmond Valley, and eligible small businesses and non-profit organisations in parts of Byron and Tweed, including Tumbulgum, Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby and Burringbar,” Mr Keenan said.

“This assistance will provide a much needed boost to small business owners, non-profit organisations, and farmers that were significantly affected by the floods, and in particular the banana, beef, macadamia, passionfruit, sugar cane and soybean industries.”

Minister Grant thanked the community for continuing to work with Government to ensure support is made available to those who require a helping hand to get back on their feet.

“Eligible primary producers will now be able access recovery grants for a range of reinstatement activities, including salvaging crops, replacing pasture, purchasing fodder and repairing damaged equipment and machinery,” Mr Grant said.

“New South Wales Federal and State Liberal and Nationals colleagues have worked together to ensure that the net of support has been cast as wide as possible for affected people on the North Coast. We said we wouldn’t walk away from them and we haven’t.”
To apply for a recovery grant, flood affected primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations should contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit raa.nsw.gov.au.

This assistance is in addition to a range of assistance that is already available under the NDRRA to help flood-affected individuals, small businesses, primary producers, and local councils with their recovery. This includes:

- Help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged;
- Support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets;
- Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations;
- Freight subsidies for primary producers; and
- Grants to non-profit organisations.

Further information on disaster assistance is available at disasterassist.gov.au and emergency.nsw.gov.au.