

**SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Position: Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Industry
and Trade
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The Honourable John Barilaro MP

Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Industry and Trade

Mr Justin Clancy MP
Chair
Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Clancy,

I write to you in your capacity as Chair of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee will report on the impacts of drought on regional NSW and identify potential government action with particular reference to regional businesses, economies and communities.

An issue has come to my attention that specifically falls within the terms of reference regarding the loss of key trades and businesses including medical services. This important issue is that regional pharmacies are suffering from a lack of rental protection.

Pharmacies pay 2-3 times market value for a lease and this is often even higher in regional areas. Tenants frequently find themselves in 'hostage' situations, facing eviction, after outlaying significant money to fit out the store.

Situations such as these are unreasonable as pharmacies provide vital health services. They are the backbone of remote and regional communities and without them, locals will be forced to travel large distances just to access basic medical services.

During this difficult period of drought, the last thing regional communities need is more instability in their local township and that is why pharmacies require security of tenure.

I hope that the committee can take the time to review this important issue.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Industry and Trade