



# Rural Assistance Authority

Our reference: ROUT11/597  
Telephone (Direct): 6391 3023

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13 December 2011

The Director  
Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Simpson

I refer to the inquiry into Economic and Social Development in Central Western New South Wales recently held in Parkes and in particular to the Committee's question on notice concerning what proportion of farmers received exceptional circumstances interest rate subsidy (ECIRS) assistance in areas where the level of funding exceeded \$100 million for the period 2002 to 30 June 2011.

The five areas identified as receiving in excess of \$100 million are known formally as the Forbes, Murray, Narrandera, Riverina and Wagga Wagga Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) areas.

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority disbursed ECIRS to primary producers as defined by the policy guidelines applying to interest rate subsidies for areas affected by the exceptional circumstances provisions of the *Rural Adjustment Act 1992* (Cth) in these areas as follows:

RLPB	Number of Primary Producers
Forbes	467
Murray	476
Narrandera	629
Riverina	421
Wagga Wagga	515

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

**SJ GRIFFITH**  
Acting Chief Executive

Head Office • 161 Kite Street, Orange NSW 2800 • Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800 • DX 3037, Orange  
Telephone (02) 6391 3000 • Toll Free Number 1800 678 593 • Facsimile (02) 6391 3098  
Email: rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au • Website: www.raa.nsw.gov.au • ABN 17 283 358 394