

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Wednesday 27 June 2018

SUPPORT FOR OUR FARMERS

The Federal Government is increasing support for local farmers with extensions to Rural Financial Counselling Services (RFCS) and the Farm Household Allowance (FHA).

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad MP said it was vital that the government ensured farmers across the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions were supported through the challenges of being a grower.

“The Rural Financial Counselling Service is a long-standing program helping out our farmers in financial hardship, through this recent extension, \$725,000 has been provided to North West Victoria to make sure counsellors are available in our patch,” Mr Broad said.

The RFCS helps farmers to improve their businesses through planning frameworks, building a view of their financials, assisting to apply for other forms of assistance as well as providing referrals to agriculture advisors and social and emotional support.

“We are also supporting farmers with an extension of the Farm Household Allowance from three years to four to help more farmers with effective drought support,” Mr Broad said.

“There are plenty of farmers doing it tough that need this support, we have listened, and we will do what we can to make sure our farmers are looked after.”

Through the Agriculture Competitiveness White Paper, the Coalition Government has provided Australians with: The Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme, Farm Household Allowance, The Rural Financial Counselling Service, and support to manage the effects of pest animals and weeds in drought-affected areas.

“As a farmer, I have experienced the struggles of drought and financial hardship, it is tough and it takes a toll on everyone around you. With these extended measures we aim to be able to help more farmers get back on their feet and build strong and healthy livelihoods,” Mr Broad said.

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