**SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES**

**CASE STUDIES**

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| Sector | Agriculture/Water |
| Sub-sector | Drought Assistance |
| Case Study Name | Application of the National Agricultural Monitoring System |
| Case Study Description | The objectives of the project are:<br>• To contain relevant and comprehensive data that is user friendly and client focused;<br>• To provide a centralised access point for that data;<br>• To provide quicker and cheaper access to data than existing sources;<br>• To enhance the timely identification of an emerging Exceptional Circumstances event;<br>• That data can be applied to areas equivalent to local government areas; and<br>• To identify the longer term uses for other applications, for example more objective state drought declarations, improved approaches to risk management. |
| Location | The National Agricultural Monitoring System (NAMS) contains a range of climatic and production information, initially for dryland/broadacre industries, for over 600 regions throughout Australia. |
| Tools employed | NAMS – National Agricultural Monitoring System |
| Description of application | The NAMS is a website that contains maps, graphs and reports to demonstrate the production situation for major agricultural systems, as well as the state of their climatic drivers.<br>The NAMS will contain current and historical data on measured and modelled production, financial impacts, remote sensing and climate. This information will be presented both spatially and via reports, providing general background information and current climatic, production and resource conditions.<br>Collectively, the information in the NAMS will show conditions for production and prospects for the major agricultural production systems. All stakeholders will be able to access this information directly from the website. |
| Outcomes of application | The primary purpose of NAMS is to streamline the Exceptional Circumstances (drought assistance) application and assessment process. |
| Cost/Benefits | The Benefits of the NAMS are a transparent and quick methodology for applying for drought assistance as a result of displaying exceptional circumstances. |
| Characteristics of the Case Study | The NAMS website will contain a range of current and historical climate, production and commodity data. This data will be transformed into user-friendly graphs and maps that are ready for interpretation, and compiled into reports that can be utilised for Exceptional Circumstances and other purposes. |
| Consultation mechanisms | Australia-wide consultations and the formation of an Advisory Reference Group provide a conduit between users and developers, to |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ensure needs, suggestions and concerns are appropriately communicated. |
| Structural interface | Advisory Reference Committee |
| Delivery mechanism | Internet based |
| Feedback mechanism | Feedback mechanism provided on website |
| Review Mechanism | Review will be managed through Steering Committee and Advisory Committee |
| Other??? | |
| Lessons learnt | Sources and quality of data are key elements as is interoperability of data sets |
| Best Practise Advice | All elements could be used in best practise advice/guidance |
| Possible future advances | Potential for use as a management tool as opposed to an assessment tool. |
| Comments | |
| URL | http://www.nams.gov.au/index.cfm?fa=nams.home<br><br>See Select Report button |
| Others?? | |
| | |