

# Media Release



**Date:** Friday 28 September 2007

**Title:** Citrus industry hails Government's drought support decision

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The citrus industry's peak body, Australian Citrus Growers (ACG), has welcomed the Federal Government's \$714 million commitment to assist growers through Australia's deepening drought crisis.

In responding to this Tuesday's drought support announcement, by the Prime Minister, ACG President, Mark Chown said, while the funding would not improve the chances of rain, it would aid growers in making decisions about their future recovery strategies.

"Our industry is facing unprecedented times, in particular for growers in the Riverland and the Murray Valley who continue to face very low allocations, therefore the support is a practical move to assist drought affected growers and their communities," Mr Chown said.

He said the support comes in addition to the \$430 million in exceptional circumstances (EC) funding announced last Monday.

Mr Chown said ACG had strongly supported and participated in the Horticultural Australia Council, Murray Darling Taskforce meetings with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Peter McGauran, to identify measures that would aid growers in their recovery strategies.

"Our involvement will now focus on developing action plans to ensure citrus irrigators have access to the latest on-farm information and financial assistance," he said.

Mr Chown said the industry services representatives had already been working vigorously to ensure growers were given all the management tools available to make informed business decisions.

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