

**John & Jean Kelly**



25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Prime Minister,

Many members of our bible study homegroup (and indeed our larger church of over one thousand members) are deeply concerned at the number of farm suicides as a result of inability to cover interest and loan repayments in the drought. Bank foreclosures are a primary cause of such disasters.

One solution would be to assist farmers with a moratorium on interest and capital repayments upon application to the banks in Drought Declared Regions. If gentle persuasion by the Federal Agriculture Minister is not sufficient then maybe the Liberals and Nationals could legislate for this to be an automatic condition placed on banks for Drought Declared Areas.

The additional costs to banks could either be borne by largely sympathetic urban shareholders out of substantial bank profits or by Government guarantees from a national disaster levy or simply from Government revenue, or any combination of the above after research. This however is an urgent need!

We beseech your cabinet to discuss and consider the human cost to our country urgently and entreat your action in a similar constructive way to your approach to preserving our borders.

Sincerely and concerned,

Cc Minister for Agriculture  
Re previous web note.