

Re: Policy idea 16a-Improving Climate Information

As an independent lessee on a property 110Kms north of Brewarrina, I would like to express my support for more coverage of these remote areas using the Bureau's weather radar network.

At the moment, our closest weather radar is situated over 300 Kms east of here which is too far for any reliable data to reach us, noting also that our weather predominately approaches from the north, north-west.

To enable us to operate a viable agricultural business, we need to have the tools available to accurately access weather situations. Major weather events can develop quickly in these areas and without radar to show these approaching; we are often caught out, resulting in huge losses. Activities such as moving stock to higher ground and away from rising waterways, covering of stored grain and hay, placing machinery under cover are all necessary when weather is approaching.

The enormous cost attributed to the recent floods in the Brewarrina area of 2010, 11 and 2012 could have been avoided if a weather radar network existed in this area of Western NSW. Many stock had to be rescued by SES choppers at a huge expense to the taxpayer and in some instances aircraft were sent out, only to have to return to base as weather closed in on them. In our local area of Weilmoringle we witnessed whole Communities and their pets, flown out to other locations as storms which were not detected, dumped large falls of rain, closing local roads and making normal travel impossible.

At least two weather radar stations are required in the Western Division with suggested locations of Bourke and Cobar. This small investment will enable farmers to make better decisions regarding stock movements and fodder storage, establish a "mantle of safety" regarding the dispatch of aircraft during weather events and reduce the enormous costs faced by local councils and government, that such weather events create.

Yours sincerely,

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