

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development



MINISTER URGES DROUGHT AFFECTED BUSINESSES TO APPLY FOR PAYROLL TAX RELIEF

Minister for Regional Development, Phil Costa today reminded businesses in the State's drought-affected areas they can still apply for payroll tax relief under the Government's Business Drought Assistance Program.

Mr Costa said business-level support was vital for local communities and retaining skilled workers for the duration of the drought.

"More than 3,500 regional jobs have been retained as a result of assistance provided through the Business Drought Assistance Program since it began in 2002," Mr Costa said.

"I encourage businesses in drought-affected areas to apply for payroll tax relief - applications for the 2009-10 financial year will be accepted up until 30 June 2010.

"Payroll tax relief is available to businesses in drought-affected areas, with up to 200 employees, that are mainly involved with production, sale or service of farm machinery and supplies, including transport, or those dependent on farm produce as their main source of business.

"Funding assistance is also available for small regional businesses under the program to implement business improvement or recovery strategies, or to diversify their operations.

"Funding is also available for small businesses that mainly provide services to, or draw supplies from farmers in drought declared regions.

"In addition, assistance is available to all businesses in drought declared, farm-dependent communities with a population of less than 15,000."

For more information on regional development programs, visit
www.business.nsw.gov.au/region/drought