

CABINET MINUTE

DECISION NO.

BRISBANE, 22 1 4 119 86

48567

SUBJECT: Declaration of Drought Areas.

(Submission No. 43792)

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Mr. Gannon

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CABINET MINUTE

Copy No. _____

Brisbane, 22nd April, 1936

Decision No. 48567

Submission No. 43792

TITLE: Declaration of Drought Areas.

CABINET decided:-

That the Shire of Cloncurry be declared drought stricken as from 1st April, 1936.

CIRCULATION: Treasury Department and copy to Minister.
Premier's Department and copy to Premier and Treasurer.
Department of Local Government and copy to Minister.
Department of Transport and copy to Minister.
Department of Railways.
Department of Primary Industries and copy to Minister.
Agricultural Bank.
All other Ministers for perusal and return.

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Released
Secretary to Cabinet.



FOR CABINET

DECLARATION OF DROUGHT AREAS

1. The Shires of McKinlay, Richmond, Diamantina, Barcoo, Isisford, and Blackall have been declared drought stricken by Cabinet.

The declaration of drought stricken status entitles property owners to 50% freight rebate on stock and fodder. In addition, fees have been waived for permits issued to allow depasturage of stock on Stock Routes and Reserves for travelling stock from or in drought declared areas or from properties declared drought stricken within "travelling stock rate areas". Graziers and crop farmers also become eligible for special drought assistance loans at concessional interest rates and with deferred payment where appropriate.

2. The present guidelines agreed upon with the Department of Primary Industries in 1972 for determination of eligibility for drought declaration based upon the departure of the actual rainfall from the seasonal average require that, for areas with a single season rainfall, a departure from the average of 40% is required before the area can be considered for declaration. In a single season summer rainfall area, local authority areas are eligible for consideration after the first 3 months of summer if a rainfall deficiency of 40% or greater has been recorded. In a two season summer and winter rainfall area there needs to be a departure of 40% from the summer seasonal average or 50% from the winter seasonal average or a combined consecutive summer and winter seasonal departure of 40% from the annual average.

3. The Department of Primary Industries has recommended that the Shire of Cloncurry be declared drought stricken as from 1st April, 1986.

The situation with respect to rainfall in the Shire as advised by the Department is -

Variation of actual rainfall from average rainfall for the period considered is expressed as a percentage of that average.

	<u>October 1985- March 1986</u>		
	<u>Actual-Average</u>		
Cloncurry	197	411	-52%
Dajarra	117	268	-56%
Duchess	108	329	-67%
Granada	151	455	-67%

4. The Shire of Cloncurry is a single season summer rainfall area.

Reports by the local Shire drought Committee indicate that rainfall registrations recorded for the centres of Cloncurry, Dajarra, Duchess and Granada are indicative of conditions being experienced throughout the Shire as a whole.

The rainfall registrations for these centres clearly indicate that the Shire falls within the rainfall guidelines for declaration in relation to the departure from the 1985/86 summer's average rainfalls.

5. The Department of Primary Industries reports conditions in the Shire to be as follows -
 - . With below average summer rainfall in 1985/86, available pasture has been limited and surface water supplies have not been replenished.
 - . Large numbers of stock have already been sold or moved to agistment. However, even with these mitigation measures, available feed is very limited and further destocking will be necessary. A significant amount of drought feeding has also commenced.
 - . Due to the drought mitigation measures undertaken to date, stock is still in fair to good condition. However, further destocking and drought feeding will be required to reduce losses in condition to acceptable levels.
 - . Currently, 36% of the properties in the Shire have been granted IDP status, with new applications for drought declaration being received each week.
6. Under the arrangements for financial assistance in drought stricken areas, the date appropriate for the declaration to take effect is the date on which the field officer's recommendation for the declaration is filed. The relevant date for the present recommendation is 1st April, 1986.
7. IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that the Shire of Cloncurry be declared drought stricken as from 1st April, 1986.

W.A.M. GUNN

DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER
ASSISTING THE TREASURER AND
MINISTER FOR POLICE

The Treasury,
Brisbane.

7th April, 1986.