

MEDIA RELEASE

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Donated water reaches Far West

The generosity of a group of Murrumbidgee farmers is providing much needed water for the pastoralists and residents of Far West NSW.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far West have been working with key stakeholders to ensure the donation of 28 megalitres of water is distributed to pastoralists and isolated residents of the Unincorporated Area of Far West NSW and Central Darling Shire, that have no water.

RDA Far West Treasurer, Sue Andrews, explained that Essential Water have been “fantastic” in developing new infrastructure to ensure the distribution of this water is as efficient and effective as possible.

“This really has been a wonderful collaboration to firstly obtain the water, transfer the licence and ensure the people of the Unincorporated Area who are really struggling, are able to access critical water for stock and domestic needs,” she said.

“The member for Farrer, Sussan Ley, has been instrumental and has worked with WaterNSW and RDA Far West to ensure this water could be transferred and accessed as soon as possible.”

Ms Andrews is a pastoralist in Far West NSW and said in her many years of living and working on the land, this is the most severe drought she has ever experienced.

“This drought is impacting every person in the region and every industry sector. It’s really refreshing and wonderful to know that people you have never met, thousands of kilometres away, care enough to go out and buy water to help,” she said.

“On behalf of RDA Far West and the entire region we would like to sincerely thank the farmers involved, Minister Ley, Essential Water and everyone else who has worked behind the scenes to make this happen.”

“It really is incredible what can happen when we all work together.”

Griffith farmer, Tony Sergi, came up with the concept late last year, and then canvassed local farmers for donations.

“It is really pleasing to see that the water is now reaching where it is needed,” Mr Sergi said.

“We need to help our fellow farmers and I thank all the donors from across the MIA, and further afield for their generosity.”

“I would also like to make special mention of Peter Cremasco who has been fantastic in helping to promote this initiative across the region.”

ENDS

Photo: Max McBride from Lock Lilly station fills his tanker for the long trip home.