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The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

The Hon David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Deputy Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Maranoa

The Hon Melissa Price MP

Federal Member for Durack

1 September 2020

‘SHOW’ OF SUPPORT FOR COVID-HIT AGRICULTURAL FIELD DAYS IN DURACK

The Australian Government yesterday announced a \$2.7 million boost for agricultural field days to ensure they can continue to showcase innovation and support regional communities after the pandemic.

The Hon Minister Price said this \$2.7 million announcement is in addition to the \$36.3 million previously announced to support agricultural show societies.

“With so many great agricultural shows and field days throughout Durack, this announcement will be well received and provide a real boost to our local communities as they battle the economic fallout of COVID-19.”

“The initiative is part of our Government’s \$1 billion COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund, which is supporting regions, communities and industry sectors severely affected by the pandemic.”

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the funding is part of an overall \$39 million commitment to help show societies and field days deal with cash-flow pressures caused by COVID-19 cancellations.

“All agricultural shows and field days that have cancelled their event in 2020 because of COVID-19 will be eligible and they will not have to compete for assistance,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

“Our agricultural field days are uniquely Australian and provide huge economic spin-offs for the local communities hosting them as well as opportunities for the businesses and services who exhibit.”

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said the Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Days program will provide a one-off reimbursement to agricultural show societies and agricultural field day organisers impacted by COVID-19.

“This funding supports not only the larger agricultural field days but also the smaller regional ones because we acknowledge the role these events play in supporting on-farm innovation, productivity and profitability,” Minister Littleproud said.

“Field days hold immense social and economic value for local rural and regional communities, many of whom are doing it tough because of COVID-19.”

An additional \$100,000 one-off grant will be provided to the Association of Agricultural Field Days Australasia to support its annual conference scheduled for 30 April 2021 to 2 May 2021 and provide training and assistance for members on recovery management planning.

For more information, visit www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/infrastructure/supporting-ag-shows.

Fast facts:

- Field days provide income to local contractors of more \$1.8 million and economic value add to the Australian economy of more than \$100 million.
- Community organisations like P&Cs, sport clubs, men’s sheds and local emergency services receive income of over \$1 million in providing services such as set-up and car parking.
- The Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Days program funding complements the Australian Government’s existing \$20 million Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program and will be provided under the \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund.
- The \$2.7 million for Field Days is in addition to the \$36.3 million for Agricultural Shows.
- Field Days could be eligible to claim reimbursement costs including bank fees, utilities, rates, insurance, fire alarms and equipment, cleaning supplies, telecommunications, IT system licensing costs, website costs, state/national show body affiliation fees and rent.

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