



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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#### Low interest loan assistance essential for Carnarvon

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Carnarvon residents left devastated by historic flooding should expect the Federal Government to provide significant financial assistance including low interest loans, comparable to what has been flagged for Queensland flood victims, says Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston.

The Federal Government appear to have focused all of their energy and attention on those affected in the Sunshine State while many thousands impacted by flooding in Western Australia are still suffering.

“While there is no doubt that the effect on Queensland will be significantly greater, there remain many pastoralists, farmers, growers, small businesses and families in the Carnarvon area who are facing a sizeable clean-up bill, as well as being forced to write off millions of dollars in produce and livestock.

“The irony is that after years of drought Mother Nature has drenched the area and in doing so has quite literally wiped many farmers off the land – entire crops are gone, herds of livestock lost and equally worrying is the fact that valuable topsoil has been washed away,” said Senator Eggleston.

“Prime Minister Gillard must offer financial assistance to those affected in Carnarvon that is comparable to what she is offering Queensland residents, including the all important low interest loans which will be essential to get farmers back on their feet for next season.

“The clean-up/recovery grants and the disaster recovery payments are very helpful, however for farmers who have lost their season’s crop it is vital that such loans are made available to avoid prolonged financial hardship in the region,” said Senator Eggleston.

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