Hi Chris

Could you please arrange an urgent response to this?

MCU – please allocate.

Thanks

Ant

---

**AG RECEIVED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Reply by AG</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Reply by MHAJ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Brief Required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reply by CoS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reply by Dept</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action Area</td>
<td>NDRPB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allocated by</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date Allocated</td>
<td>25/2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
1. Relevant option marked with X or data entered
2. AGD would take the date of the email as the date “received by AGO”

Antony Catt | 02 6277 7300

---

From: Murray, Dugald
Sent: Monday, 25 February 2013 8:25 am
To: Catt, Antony
Subject: FW: letters - banana [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

---

RELEASED UNDER THE FOI ACT 1982 BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
Thank you for the letter from the Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

I am concerned that the residents of Banana Shire affected by the 2013 floods caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald cannot access AGRDP funds of $1,000 per adult and $400 per child.

Our shire had six (6) towns completely isolated by flood waters, and approximately 120 people were in four (4) different evacuation centres.

Anglo American’s workers living in Biloela could not access their work at Dawson Mine, Moura and the Qld Nitrate’s staff (which is approx. 75% of their staff) also residing in Biloela could not access their Plant at Moura.

As well, we had a lot of rural property devastation.

Banana Shire Council met with SunWater on Monday, 11 February and they are rating this event in Banana Shire as a ‘1 in 1,000 year event’.

Today, the affected area of Banana Shire has been declared Category ‘D’ illustrating the devastation in Banana Shire.

I spoke to your office this afternoon and was advised that there was not enough evidence to grant us the AGRDP payment. However, no one can tell me what the criteria is, to receive this funding.

I myself was cut off because of flood waters for 4 days and slept in my office, while my wife was cut-off more than 50 kilometres away, so I know first-hand the trauma involved of being cut-off from loved ones.

Because it is so difficult to find out and send the required information, I hope this paints a picture of how devastated we as a community are feeling.

Ron

Please Note: A copy of this email is being posted to the Prime Minister.

Ron Carige

Mayor

Council’s Vision: To improve the quality of life for our communities, through the delivery of efficient and effective services and facilities.
From: Stein, Elliot [mailto:Elliot.Stein@maff.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 15 February 2013 4:48 PM
To: Carige, Ron (Mayor)
Subject: (DWS Doc No 1208106) Letter from the Prime Minister [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached correspondence from Prime Minister Julia Gillard MP to the Mayor.

A hard copy will also be delivered.

Regards,

Elliot

Elliot Stein

Adviser | Office of Senator Joe Ludwig
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister Assisting on Queensland Floods Recovery

Fax: +61 2 6273 4120
T: @jw_ludwig

-----

IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from DAFF. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them.

If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. DAFF is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments.

If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly.

This notice should not be deleted or altered.

-----
Dear Minister Ludwig,

I am writing to seek your urgent attention with regard to the activation of the Banana and parts of the Central Highlands regions within my electorate of Flynn under the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP).

As we discussed in our recent meeting, parts of these regions have been devastated by the recent flooding events in Queensland to a similar degree as those such as Bundaberg, Gladstone, North/South Burnett and Rockhampton which have already been activated.

These areas in the communities of Jambin, Goovigen etc. suffered extensive residential property damage, as well as damage to agricultural infrastructure and many, many locals were unable to get to their places of employment right across the region more broadly.

My office has been in contact with your staff as late as this afternoon, and had been advised that according to assessments made by EMA, the region does not meet the criteria for activation under the AGDRP. I have been advised by the Mayor of Banana Shire that he has also been given this feedback, but was unable to ascertain who he should speak to about the provision of further information.

It is my understanding that relevant information regarding the scale of damage in this region has been provided to your office, and that of the Attorney General, by both my staff and the Banana Regional Council itself.

Please find attached the information provided to my office by the CEO of Banana Shire which has previously been submitted.

I have also attached a letter written to the Hon. Mark Dreyfus on the 7th of February regarding this issue for your consideration.

I thank you in advance for your urgent attention in this matter and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Kind Regards

Ken O’Dowd
Federal Member for Flynn
Good Afternoon,

We have downloaded the following information from the guardian system. Please note on the summary sheet that it refers to the number of properties affected, not the number of head of livestock etc. These stats reflect the calls that have been lodged with Council, and we are aware that the numbers will increase considerably as we collect more information from outlying areas of the shire, and property owners have had time to assess their losses and damages. As previously stated, the area in Banana Shire that has been impacted is substantial and we are working on gathering information from all relevant sources and property owners. Regards,

Ray

Ray Geraghty

Chief Executive Officer
Banana Shire Council | PO Box 412 | Biloela QLD 4715
07 4992 9500 | enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au | www.banana.qld.gov.au

P Please consider the environment before printing

-----Original Message-----
From: Heuschele, Debbie
Sent: Thursday, 7 February 2013 3:47 PM
To: Geraghty, Ray
Subject: Flood Data

Debbie Heuschele

Executive Services Personal Assistant
Banana Shire Council | PO Box 412 | Biloela QLD 4715
07 4992 9500 | enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au | www.banana.qld.gov.au

P Please consider the environment before printing

DISCLAIMER

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. This communication may represent the originator's personal views and opinions, which may not necessarily reflect those of Banana Shire Council. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering the e-mail to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this e-mail in error, and that any use, dissemination, forward, printing, or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the Banana Shire Council IT Help Desk on +61 (07) 4992 9500.
Dear Minister Ludwig

18 February 2013

I am writing to seek your urgent attention with regard to the activation of the Banana and parts of the Central Highlands regions within my electorate of Flynn under the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP).

As we discussed in our recent meeting, parts of these regions have been devastated by the recent flooding events in Queensland to a similar degree as those such as Bundaberg, Gladstone, North/South Burnett and Rockhampton which have already been activated.

These areas in the communities of Jambin, Goovigen etc. suffered extensive residential property damage, as well as damage to agricultural infrastructure and many, many locals were unable to get to their places of employment right across the region more broadly.

My office has been in contact with your staff as late as this afternoon, and had been advised that according to assessments made by EMA, the region does not meet the criteria for activation under the AGDRP. I have been advised by the Mayor of Banana Shire that he has also been given this feedback, but was unable to ascertain who he should speak to about the provision of further information.

It is my understanding that relevant information regarding the scale of damage in this region has been provided to your office, and that of the Attorney General, by both my staff and the Banana Regional Council itself. I have attached this information again for your urgent consideration.

I thank you in advance for your urgent attention in this matter and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Kind Regards

Ken O'Dowd

Federal Member for Flynn
JANUARY 2013 FLOOD EVENT

From 1758 tasks in Guardian to date, 490 tasks met the criteria of:

- Building inundation 124
- Fencing loss 127
- Stock loss 33
- Crop/Produce loss (crops, milk, etc) 33
- Top soil 26
- Equipment loss (cars, vehicles, etc) 95
- Infrastructure loss (yards, sheds, dams, irrigation drains, etc) 52
- Isolation
  - Isolated in house 215
  - Isolated from house 136
  - Isolated from school/work 28
- Evacuations 71
- Injury / Medical loss 2
- Rescues 35
- Commercial loss 19

Council continues to receive emails and telephone calls reporting damage and loss.

1330hrs
7 February 2013