

9 March 2010

## **FARMERS MANAGE DROUGHTS WELL**

Following almost a decade of drought in many areas of New South Wales, Suncorp Bank's General Manager Regional NSW, Stephen Morgan is impressed at how the vast majority of the Bank's farming customers have been able to 'tighten their belts' and manage through difficult economic and environmental conditions.

"We recognise that over the past two years people on the land have not only had to endure the global financial crisis, but also the ongoing effects of the drought. It's a testament to farmers' management skills that they have been able to withstand such a prolonged period of adverse seasons," he said.

"Given the widespread recent rains, we're very hopeful of a return to a series of profitable years for the rural community.

"At Suncorp Bank we understand the challenges of the land and we have continued to lend to farmers and producers for over 100 years."

To thank the community for their ongoing support, Suncorp Bank will host a series of seminars throughout regional NSW in March and April.

Included on the agenda will be an update on the economic outlook, and an overview of how the Bank views agriculture and the farming business. In addition, Kerry O'Keeffe, cricket commentator and media personality, will discuss the topic 'Overnight success only took 20 years'.

Local Suncorp Bank staff and senior executives will be attending, including the Bank's CEO David Foster in Tamworth and Moree. Seminars will be held in:

Griffith:	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2010, Southside Leagues Club 2 Bridge Road, Griffith
Wagga:	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2010, Wagga Wagga RSL Club Dobbs Street, Wagga Wagga
Dubbo:	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2010, Dubbo RSL Club Cnr Brisbane St & Wingewarra St, Dubbo
Moree:	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2010, location to be advised
Tamworth:	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2010, Powerhouse Hotel Armidale Road, Tamworth

For more information or to attend one of the events please contact Debbie Ogborne on (02) 8248 3580.

ENDS

### **About Suncorp:**

Suncorp is one of Australia and New Zealand's largest diversified financial services providers, supplying banking, insurance and wealth management products to around 7 million customers through well-established and recognised brands such as AAMI, Australian Pensioners Insurance Agency, Shannons, Vero, Asteron and Tyndall, as well as Suncorp and GIO. Today Suncorp is Australia's fifth largest bank and second largest domestic general insurance group, with over 16,000 staff. Suncorp has representation in 450 offices, branches and agencies throughout Australia and New Zealand.

### **Media Contact:**

Rebecca Cassidy

Phone 07 3835 5632

Mobile 0409 499 165