

20 January 2012

## Suncorp Bank announces new Lockyer Valley business banking centre and major partnership with Australian Year of the Farmer

Australia's leading regional bank, Suncorp, has today opened its Lockyer Valley Business Banking Centre and has announced its ongoing commitment to rural and regional Australia via a partnership with Australian Year of the Farmer.

Suncorp Group CEO Patrick Snowball and Suncorp Bank CEO David Foster hosted the event in Gatton, in support of local growers and communities one year after the devastating floods that tore through the Lockyer Valley region.

Suncorp Bank CEO David Foster said he was proud to open the Lockyer Valley Business Banking Centre to meet the banking needs of local producers and small business owners.

"We're providing a convenient business banking centre which will offer a full agribusiness and small business product and service offering," said Mr Foster.

"Lockyer Valley residents have shown inspiring resilience in the wake of the devastating floods of 2011 and through periods of drought in previous years.

"These communities, local businesses, producers and families have done a truly remarkable job in facing these challenges and we want to throw our full support behind them to ensure their banking needs are met well into the future.

"With its prime agricultural land the Lockyer Valley is referred to as the 'salad bowl' not only for Queensland but for the nation. Suncorp Bank is proud to play its role in supporting the continued growth of this important industry and dynamic region."

Suncorp Group CEO Patrick Snowball said he was delighted to announce the partnership with the Australian Year of the Farmer in 2012, cementing the Bank's support of rural and regional communities and highlighting the importance of Australia's agricultural industries.

"In 2012 we'll celebrate the official Australian Year of the Farmer as well as Suncorp Bank's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having started out as the Queensland Agricultural Bank in 1902," said Mr Snowball.

"Australian Year of the Farmer is a celebration of the significant contribution farmers make to our everyday lives and our economy, by growing and harvesting the amazing Australian products we enjoy eating, wearing and using every day," he said.

"It acknowledges and celebrates this nation's producers and we're proud to be playing a part in celebrating the industry and its role in our future.





"Australia, and indeed the Lockyer Valley region, is renowned for being a global leader in agricultural production, management, innovation, research and education. It's an industry vital to Australia's prosperity.

"It's most fitting that Australia's leading regional bank throws its full support behind this important year of celebrations."

The new Lockyer Valley Business Banking Centre is based at Shop1/47 North St, Gatton, Queensland. District Manager Michael Allpass can be contacted on 0408 746 815 or <u>Michael Allpass@suncorp.com.au</u> to set up an appointment.

<u>Read here</u> for more information about Suncorp Bank. <u>Read here</u> for more information about Australian Year of the Farmer.

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## Media Contact:

Amy McDonald (07) 3835 5580 | 0403 058 462 | amy.mcdonald@suncorp.com.au

## About Suncorp:

Suncorp Group includes leading general insurance, banking, life insurance, superannuation and investment brands in Australia and New Zealand. The Group has around 16,000 employees and relationships with nine million customers. It is a Top 25 ASX listed company with over \$95 billion in assets. Today Suncorp is Australia's leading regional bank, largest domestic general insurance group, and second largest in New Zealand and has representation in 450 offices, branches and agencies throughout Australia and New Zealand.

