



## AgForce flood recovery tour dominates spatial awards

AgForce's On the Road to Rebuilding roadshow which helped more than 700 flood and cyclone affected farmers rebuild after a summer of natural disasters has been awarded top prize at the 2011 Queensland Spatial Excellence Awards (QSEA) held in Brisbane on Friday night.

On the Road to Rebuilding took out first prize in the People and Community category before going on to win the JM (Mac) Serisier Award for Overall Excellence, the highest accolade of the awards which recognises those at the forefront of the spatial industry in Queensland

The roadshow visited 22 locations across southern, central and northern Queensland from February to April, providing farmers with a one-stop-shop for vital recovery assistance after the January floods and Cyclone Yasi.

AgForce flood recovery coordinator Noel Brinsmead said the awards were a result of the rapid response and hard work of the AgForce Projects team who brought financial institutions, insurance providers and property planning experts out to flood affected regions to help farmers rebuild their businesses and livelihoods as well as providing free spatial assistance packages through AgForward, funded by the Queensland Government.

"The emphasis of the roadshow was to provide producers with access to satellite imagery of their property before and after the floods so they could gauge the extent of the damage on their property, a crucial first step in the recovery process," Mr Brinsmead said.

"At a time when the Queensland economy had taken a \$1 billion hit and farmers were struggling to come to terms with the devastation, the roadshows provided crucial information and also helped to raise \$500,000."

Spatial services were provided free to all landholders through AgForward, an initiative of AgForce within its project division, funded by the Queensland Government.

Mr Brinsmead said producers were given assistance with displaced stock, infrastructure rebuilding and tools to help them assess on-farm flood damage and build a pre and post-flood property condition report, property map, and plan, a vital tool when applying for new or revised loans following flooding.

The Road to Rebuilding tour also assisted Northern Queensland producers access relief funds after Cyclone Yasi by helping Councils work with GeoPDFs to identify affected regions.

"We worked with Mayors and Councils to develop a regional map of affected areas that was used by the government to decide on where to enact Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements," Mr Brinsmead said.

AgForce also teamed up with not-for-profit charity organisation Aussie Helpers to assist producers financially with rebuilding their property infrastructure. AgForce Projects also provided spatial support to not-for-profit charity Aussie Helpers, enabling them to better coordinate the dispersal of donations and organise on ground logistics.

The J M (Mac) Serisier Award for Overall Excellence is selected by the judging panel from six industry categories and represents the highest level of overall achievement. Winners are automatically nominated into the Asia Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards (APSEA).

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