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MEDIA RELEASE

ATO – FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS (18 January 2011)

Update on tax help for flood affected areas

Over the last week, we have sent broadcasts to registered agents in specific flood affected areas, notifying them of the help we are able to provide in this difficult time.

We have already implemented a range of support strategies to help people affected by the continuing floods, including the deferral of lodgment dates and the implementation of general interest charge (GIC) stoppers for businesses, taxpayers and registered agents.

Further assistance

We are now informing all registered agents that we are expanding the previously advised automatic deferral process.

If you or any of your clients reside in Queensland, the Tweed area of north-east New South Wales, or any of the other flood affected postcodes identified on our website, we will automatically defer the lodgment and payment date for December monthly to 21 February 2011. **You do not need to apply for a deferral**, and if later deferrals have already been granted, these still apply.

This automatic deferral provides a later deferred due date than the agent self-assessed deferrals and takes their place for these obligations. If you need further additional time to lodge and pay, you will need to contact us. Similarly, if you or your clients face other lodgment or payment obligations in the coming weeks and you need additional time, phone us on **13 72 86** Fast Key Code **5** before any due dates.

In the mean time, if you have been affected by the floods and receive any correspondence from us that you or your clients are not ready to deal with, contact us and we will make special arrangements for you.

More information

Further information is available on our website at www.ato.gov.au

We are continuing to work with various government agencies, monitoring rain and flood affected areas across Australia. The list of postcodes for affected areas for which automatic lodgment and payment deferrals are provided will continue to be reviewed regularly and updated on our website.

Ian Read
Acting Deputy Commissioner
Tax Practitioner and Lodgment Strategy