

## Media Release

### **Queensland Premier and Foodbank thank Australia's food and grocery industry for flood support**

**Brisbane, 27 September 2011:** Today Queensland Premier Anna Bligh will recognise some of the unsung heroes from the January floods when she joins Foodbank, Australia's largest hunger relief organisation, to thank the food and grocery industry for their vital role in the relief efforts.

With over three quarters of Queensland declared a disaster zone, food and grocery supplies were needed right across the state for both the front-line emergency centres and follow-up relief efforts.

When the magnitude and impact of the floods became evident, Foodbank made a call to its industry partners to provide donations for the thousands of Australians affected by the rising waters. The response was immediate and generous, with all 39 companies approached offering unreserved assistance.

John Webster, CEO of Foodbank Australia comments, "We were overwhelmed by the support of our food and grocery partners. It was amazing to see an entire industry come together to help those in need. Altogether, we received over 1,500 pallet loads of product valued at over \$5.5 million, which we were able to deliver to the devastated areas across Queensland."

Foodbank's involvement in previous disasters such as Cyclone Larry and the Black Saturday bushfires, allowed for a rapid and strategic response, which saw the first delivery of supplies arriving to Queensland within days of the call for help.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh said that to get through natural disasters the whole community needed to come together.

"Foodbank's efforts are the perfect example of that. They got food and supplies to the people who needed them most and they made a massive difference during the disasters," she said.

"I want to thank everyone involved on behalf of all Queenslanders. You did an amazing job."

Food and grocery supplies were provided to charities in both regional and metro areas. Deliveries were made to various emergency centres, however, the real focus for Foodbank was the second wave of assistance to support the flood victims as they returned to their devastated homes.

"From breakfast cereals, long life milk, pastas and sauces, canned fruit, bread, tea and coffee, snack foods, drinks and toiletries, we had everything that you would need to restock a home. We know that every one of our partners who contributed

helped to make life that little bit easier for the flood victims as they began the clean up process," said John Webster.

Today's ceremony will be held at the Foodbank Queensland warehouse in Morningside, which also came under threat from the floods forcing staff to evacuate for 24 hours. Fortunately, there was no damage and activity resumed the following day so the team was able to continue providing supplies for those in need.

Foodbank and the Premier will award the following national donors and partners for their generous support during the floods:

Campbell Arnott's, Cerebos, Chep, Coca-Cola Amatil, FaHCSIA, Ferrero, Fonterra, George Weston Foods, Goodman Fielder, Heinz, Johnson & Johnson, Kellogg's, Kimberly-Clark, Kraft Foods, Loscam, Lindsay Transport, Manassen Foods, McCain, Mars Food Australia, Menora Foods, Nestlé, Oriental Merchant, P&G, PZ Cussons, Rinoldi Pasta, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing Company, Sara Lee, Schweppes, Simplot Australia, SPC Ardmona, Smith's Snackfood Company, Stuart Alexander, Sugar Australia, Sunbeam, SunRice, Toll, Unilever, Valcorp, Virgin Australia.

For more information visit [www.foodbank.com.au](http://www.foodbank.com.au)

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### **About Foodbank**

Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organisation in Australia. In partnership with the food industry, the corporate sector, governments, welfare agencies and volunteers, Foodbank is tackling the hidden problem of hunger in Australia, one empty stomach at a time. It is a non-denominational, national organisation, with distribution centres in six states, the Northern Territory and eight regional centres. Foodbank is endorsed by the Australian Food and Grocery Council as the food industry's charity partner.

In 2010/11 21 million kilograms of food was donated to create 28 million meals. This enabled Foodbank to assist 2,500 welfare agencies to provide 75,000 meals every day.

Foodbank acts as a conduit between the food and grocery industry's donations and the welfare sector's needs. Food companies deliver their donations to Foodbank warehouses and welfare agencies collect the donated food and distribute it to people in need.

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