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Kia ora tatou, ko Fiona Gower National President Rural Women New Zealand ahau.

Rural Women New Zealand has been the leader in supporting rural communities since 1925, and we are here today in collaboration with the Government, MPI and industry leaders to support our rural communities, families, women and children through the tough times ahead.

We are committed to ensuring there is wrap-around welfare support for those affected because we understand that without this, high levels of stress in times of crisis and in the aftermath can lead to a breakdown in our rural social fabric. The last thing we need is bullying of children, an increase in family violence or even suicide.

RWNZ will be working with the Rural Support Trust, other primary industry groups and leaders to ensure all rural communities, farming families, women and children feel connected and supported. Strategic, thoughtful and regular communication between the support networks and communities is vital.

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