



Countryman  
Thursday 24/2/2011  
Page: 25  
Section: General News  
Region: Perth Circulation: 8,625  
Type: Rural  
Size: 178.58 sq.cms.  
Frequency: ---T---

Brief: PARLWA-WA1

# Brian battling for the bush



Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis at Woolorama 2010

At a Blokes' Barbecue in the bush last year, Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis heard some gut-wrenching accounts of how it feels to be doing it hard in the drought.

Not that he needed a reminder. As a third-generation farmer, Brian knows what it is like to be at the mercy of the weather.

A decade ago, Brian managed the Moora evacuations, so he also knows how it feels to see properties and livestock lost like they were in the Carnarvon floods and the storms that hit Northam and York.

"Since the last Woolorama, local farmers have seen the worst at both

ends of the rain gauge," Mr Ellis said.

"There has been an exodus of sheep across the border to markets and growers in the eastern states, leaving a reduced breeding flock in WA.

"The fact that Woolorama is still a major item on the bush calendar is testament to the tenacity of our State's wool growers despite adversity, but it is important for farmers to know they are not alone."

Brian will be handing out fridge magnets at Woolorama to encourage farmers to visit his user-friendly website, [www.brianellis.com.au](http://www.brianellis.com.au), for information about drought assistance.