



HELL AND HIGH WATER



● Bethany Dodgshun, Mark Haley, Geoff Luff, and Megan Keith from Border Express, which is seeking to collect 10,000 pillows to send to the flood victims in Queensland. Picture: JOHN RUSSELL

Pillow drive to comfort victims

BY BRAD WORRALL

TEN thousand pillows is the lofty target of a Border business in its unique quest to support flood victims across the nation.

From Thursday to February 13, trucking company Border Express will have a semi-trailer in Albury's QEII Square where people can donate new pillows.

Mark Haley said a discussion one morning about what could be done brought an avalanche of ideas including the pillow drive.

"People ask why the pillow," he said.

"Well these people need everything at the moment and a pillow seemed like a good starting point.

"They are relatively cheap to buy and with a pillow there is a sense that you are home.

"If you are away from home, or in this case forced out, you miss that feeling of when you put your head on that pillow at night you are home."

Mr Haley said they wanted to make the donations personal.

"We want people to write a message on the plastic covering around the pillow, a message of support," he said.

"These are going to be delivered to flood victims by the CWA — with a scone and a cuppa.

"We are country people who understand what community means, we want that to come across in this appeal."

Border Express director Geoff Luff said he was proud to be involved.

"It is a great initiative something we can do for the people in Queensland and in recognition of the fact that they need all the help they can get," he said.

"This tragedy touched so many people and even one of our own, our Bris-

bane manager lost his home to the floods."

Bethany Dodgshun said the idea had been supported by businesses and was continuing to build momentum.

"At the moment, we're just being blown away by the momentum this idea is gaining," she said.

"We've got a number of businesses, local and federal MPs, the Albury and Wodonga councils, and a number of other community groups who are very keen to support the idea.

The team at Border Express is working on a Wodonga drop-off point for the pillows.