



AVAILABLE DROUGHT ASSISTANCE IN NSW

NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package

On July 30 2018 the NSW Government announced a \$500 million Emergency Drought Relief Package to help farmers manage the effects of the current drought. Measures include:

Drought Transport Subsidy

A transport subsidy of \$20,000 per eligible farm business per year equating to up to \$30,000 over 18 months from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019. The subsidy is back-dated so farmers can apply it for freight expenses incurred since 1 January 2018. It covers 50% of the full cost of freight up to a maximum of \$5 per kilometre and 1,500 kilometres per journey.

Waiver of NSW Local Land Services rates

All LLS rates, including General Rates and Rates for Animal Health and Pests, the Meat Industry Levy, and costs of Routine Stock Moving Permit and Stock Identification will be waived for 2019.

Contact Local Land Services for more information on 1300 795 299

Rebate on fixed charges for water licences

A rebate of up to \$4,000 per licence will apply to the fixed component of bills for general security licence holders (and supplementary water access licence holders) in rural and regional NSW across surface and ground water systems, and to customers of Irrigation Corporation Districts (ICDs) for water entitlement costs incurred.

Contact WaterNSW for more information on 1300 662 077

Waiver of Class 1 agricultural vehicle registration

Class 1 agricultural vehicles will be exempt from the next annual registration charge.

Contact ServiceNSW for more information on 13 22 13

Waiver of Farm Innovation Fund interest charges

All existing Farm Innovation Fund customers, and all applicants who submitted an application on or before 30 July 2018, will have applicable interest charges for the 2017/18 financial year and 2018/19 financial year refunded and waived.

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Financial Assistance

Farm Innovation Fund

A loan scheme for capital works to a value of \$250K (eg sheds, silos, water storage) for infrastructure works to prepare for dry conditions, to be more resilient and improve on-farm efficiency.



Drought Assistance Fund

A one-off \$50,000 interest free loan to **transport stock, fodder and water; genetic banking of breeding herds and installing on-farm fodder and water infrastructure**. Seven year interest free repayment terms. No repayment required in first two years.



Transport of Donated Fodder

100% of the **cost of transporting donated fodder** is available to transport providers acting in conjunction with community groups taking donated fodder from within NSW to drought-affected properties - up to a maximum of \$5 per kilometre within 1500km.



Animal Welfare Transport Subsidy

A subsidy of up to 50% of eligible costs for the **permanent transport of stock off a farm** which is facing financial hardship and where livestock are at fat score 2 or below (dairy cattle 3 or below), to a maximum of \$20,000 per financial year.



Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program

A subsidy of up to 50% of eligible costs for an approved course or activity, with a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 per farmer and \$9,000 per farm business.



Farm Debt Mediation

A structured negotiation process where an accredited, independent mediator helps the farmers and their creditors to negotiate and reach agreements about farm business debt. Farmers can negotiate their farm business debt with their lender at any time and don't have to be in default or hardship. New farm debt mediation videos provide valuable information on the mediation process and aim to empower farmers to negotiate more effectively, in a fair and efficient way.



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Regional Investment Corporation Drought Assistance

The Australian Government offers low interest loans for farmers to manage their business risks and to prepare for, manage through and recover from drought.



<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/sup-farmers-rural-communities-drought>

Farm Management Deposits

The scheme helps producers deal effectively with cash flow fluctuations by building up cash reserves to meet their business costs in low-income years. Eligible producers can **set aside pre-tax income from primary production in years of high income**, which can be drawn on in future years.



www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/fmd

Support and Advice

Drought Hub

A one-stop **online destination for information** on services and support available to primary producers, their families and communities to prepare for and manage drought conditions.



Local Land Services

Local Land Services staff provide farmers with on the ground support and **advice on animal nutrition, pasture management and livestock health**. Local Land Services are also running drought information sessions across NSW and can connect farmers with other specialists.



www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Visit site for your local region

Drought Feed Calculator

A mobile app to help farmers make decisions and save money by **determining the minimum feed requirement for different livestock, and compare the value of different feeds or a mixed ration**. The app covers 71 different feeds and calculates: The amount of feed needed per head, the cost per head, the cost for a period, the amount of feed needed for a mob/herd, and the total cost for a mob/herd.



[Free to download from the iOS App Store or Android Google Play](#)

Search: 'Drought Feed Calculator'



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Rural Resilience Program

A team dedicated to building the personal and business resilience of farming communities by listening to concerns and collaborating with partners to address these. They make sure farmers connect with each other through events, facilitate useful learning opportunities and improve farmers' access to information and services they may need. The Program includes Rural Resilience Officers and Rural Support Workers that cover the state.



Rural Financial Counselling Service

Rural financial counsellors help farmers who are dealing with, or are at risk of, financial hardship. Rural financial counsellors can:

- » Help identify producers' financial and business options, including negotiating with lenders
- » Help producers develop an action plan
- » Help producers access the Farm Household Allowance (FHA)
- » Give producers information about government and other assistance schemes
- » Refer producers to accountants, agricultural advisers and educational services
- » Refer producers to Department of Human Services and to professionals for succession planning, family mediation and personal, emotional and social counselling.



www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service