

Connecting landholders with help

May 2018

Drought has a major impact on farms, farming families and communities. It is important for landholders to connect with services and support agencies that can help them manage their property, livestock and most importantly their own health and wellbeing and financials during tough times. Good management and planning can help reduce the impact of drought.

Drought support has changed in NSW. Landholders are encouraged to visit the DPI Droughthub (www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au) for information on the services and support available during drought conditions. The key message is please don't self assess.

Here is a list of local contacts that can help you and your family:

Rural Assistance Authority

Phone: 1800 678 593

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority provides assistance to rural producers and small business in regional NSW through programs that encourage self-reliance and adaptation to change.

The guidelines and application forms for RAA assistance can be found at www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

NSW Drought Transport Fund

Low-interest loans of up to \$20,000 to cover 100% of costs (GST exclusive) to transport stock, fodder, or water to/from drought affected properties. The first two years of a 7 year loan are interest and repayment free.

Drought Concessional Loan

Loans for up to 50 per cent of a farm business's final debt position to a maximum of \$1 million are available.

Drought Assistance Concessional Loans can be used for:

- › **Debt restructuring:** Applicants can use concessional loans to restructure existing eligible debt. This includes being able to restructure existing Commonwealth concessional loans.
- › **Operating expenses:** Applicants can use funds for operating expenses that are necessary to continue the normal operations of the farm business.
- › **Drought recovery activities:** Applicants can use loan funds to contribute to the cost of drought recovery activities and associated expenses including planting and/or restocking.
- › **Drought preparedness activities:** Applicants can use loan funds to assist with the cost of activities to prepare for future droughts.
- › Any combination of all the above.

Transport Subsidy for Animal Welfare

A 50% subsidy on the transport of stock to sale or slaughter (not available for stock moving to agistment) is permanently available to primary producers where:

- › animals are at significant risk in terms of animal welfare;
- › there is little or no feed and/or water available. This includes both pasture and stored fodder;

- › animals leave the farming enterprise permanently; and
- › the enterprise demonstrates a significant financial need.

The following measures are also available to assist rural producers:

- › **Farm Innovation Fund** loans to primary producers for drought and disaster preparedness works and other productivity improvements.
- › **Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program** for primary producers in NSW.
- › **Farm Debt Mediation** including Farm-initiated mediation
- › Consideration for deferral of NSW RAA loan repayments

Rural Financial Counselling Service

www.raa.nsw.gov.au/rfc

Phone: 1800 940 404

The NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) is a free and confidential service which provides information and assistance on financial position, budgets and submitting applications.

Narrabri: Greg Giles 6792 4798

Tamworth/Gunnedah: Sarah Goulden 6761 3336

Moree: Leah Bailey 6752 3561

Commonwealth Farm Household Allowance

The Farm Household Allowance is a payment for farming families in financial hardship that lasts for three years. It can help with your household bills and financial circumstances

Eligibility basics:

- › a farmer who spends a major part of your time and capital working on the farm, or the partner of a farmer who does
- › is not over the income and assets test limits
- › meets mutual obligation requirements

For more information and the full guidelines please visit:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance>

Farmers Hotline: 13 23 16

Rural Resilience Program

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/rural-resilience-program>

Exploring the crucial relationship between the personal, business and productive aspects of farming is central to the work of the Rural Resilience Program.

The team works proactively in partnership with farming communities and service providers across NSW to strengthen networks, exchange information and deliver relevant initiatives that build personal and business resilience skills and knowledge, enabling people to move forward in a positive direction.
North West: Amanda Glasson 0438 082 731

Bureau of Meteorology Rainfall Deficiency Analyser

You must submit a valid Bureau of Meteorology Rainfall Deficiency Report for some applications. This report identifies those areas that have experienced a rainfall deficiency which is equivalent to, or worse than, a 1 in 20 year rainfall event which extends 12 months or more.

If your farm business is not located in a 1 in 20 year rainfall deficiency area you may still apply for some types of assistance. The map is located at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ada/>

Once you have located your property, remember to print a copy of the map, as the data is updated regularly and your circumstances may change.

Mental Health Support Services:

We acknowledge being in drought is a highly stressful and emotional situation. It can be hard to prioritise your own wellbeing, as you manage competing demands on the farm and at home. Talking to someone could help ease some of your concerns.

Please consider talking to your GP, or utilise one of these free services, who will be able to provide you with strategies to help you cope.

If you're concerned about your own or someone else's mental health, you can call the **NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511** for advice.

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)

Moree: Letitia Cross..... 0477 343 628
Tamworth: Sarah Green..... 0428 109 990
Tamworth: Kate Arndell..... 0405 288 081
Head office: Orange6363 8444
www.ramhp.com.au

Lifeline: 13 11 14

<https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

National Centre for Farmer Health

<http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/>

North West Local Land Services

North West Local Land Services can help with 'boots on the ground' services during times of drought. Our staff can assist producers with livestock and pasture advice, animal health issues, pest animal problems and applying for roadside grazing permits and available Traveling Stock Routes.

Here is a list of important staff contacts.

District Veterinarians:

Team Leader: Bob McKinnon..... 0428 667 920
Narrabri/Gunnedah: Judy Ellem 0428 402 482
Narrabri: Shaun Slattery0428 922 607
Narrabri: Megan Davies.....0428 710 381
Tamworth: Heidi Austin..... 0427 529 548
Moree: Justine McNally0428 299 133

Agriculture Extension staff:

Team Leader: Dale Kirby..... 0468 429 919
Cropping: Bill Manning0428 607 731
Mixed Farming: George Truman0427 505 040
Mixed Farming: Kate Pearce.....0429 900 329
Livestock: Naomi Hobson0407 936 140
Livestock: Sally Balmain0428 280 809

Biosecurity Officers:

Team Leader Jackie Barker0427 058 976
Narrabri: John Busby0428 299 177
Narrabri: Lucy Collingridge0418 602 393
Tamworth: Amy Sheridan0429 920 124
Tamworth: Grahame Kelly0419 403 261
Tamworth: Greg Lumber0427 293 892
Moree: Rebecca Gray.....0402 073 463
Moree: Toni Jericho.....0407 603 855
Walgett: Heidi Mackay0429 924 560
Warialda: David Lindsay0427 291 883

Traveling Stock Routes Rangers:

Team Leader Wayne Garnsey.....0427 293 893
Warialda: Scott Graham.....0439 821 348
Narrabri: Fay Anderson.....0427 291 466

Contact your local council for more information about roadside grazing permits. You must be approved by your local council before placing stock on roads.

North West Local Land Services are here to help you with information, advice and to connect you to the services you need. Please give us a call to discuss how we might help at your place.

Office hours 8.30am - 4.30pm
Narrabri - 6790 7600
Tamworth - 6764 5900
Gunnedah - 6742 9220
Warialda - 6729 1528
Moree - 6750 9000
Walgett - 6828 6400
Goondiwindi - 07 4671 0518

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