

## Connecting landholders with help

These dry seasonal conditions have 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 (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>) for information on the services and support available during dry conditions.

**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.

#### 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 guidelines and application can be found at: <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/rebate-onroad-transport>

#### The following measures are also available to assist rural producers:

- **Farm Innovation** Fund loans to primary producers or 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

### 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 Financial Counselling Service

[www.raa.nsw.gov.au/rfc](http://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.

#### Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW

Stuart Brummell - (Glen Innes): 02 6732 3325

Geoff Mill - (Inverell): 02 6721 0030

Debby Maddox - (Armidale): 02 6778 4784



## 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.

Jen Haberecht - Rural Resilience Officer: 0400 160 287

## 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 contact:

**NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511 for advice.**

**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>

**Rural Adversity Mental Health Program**

[www.ramhp.com.au](http://www.ramhp.com.au)

Letita Cross: 0447 343 628

## For more information, advice and help:

**DroughtHub:** <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>

**Animal Welfare Guidelines:**

<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/>

**Northern Tablelands Local Land Services** can help with 'boots on the ground' services during dry times. Our staff can assist producers with livestock and pasture advice, animal health issues and pest animal problems.

**Brent McLeod**

Sheep management and nutrition: 0413 884 710

**Jason Siddell**

Cattle management and nutrition: 0459 162 295

**Andrew Biddle - (Inverell)**

Animal health and biosecurity: 0427 825 725

**Lisa Martin - (Tenterfield)**

Animal health and biosecurity: 0428 623 471

**Nigel Brown - (Glen Innes)**

Animal health and biosecurity: 0419 434 087

**Geoff Green - (Armidale)**

Animal health and biosecurity: 0427 007 185

**Georgie Oakes - (Inverell)**

Pastures Agronomist: 0429 310 264

**Glen Uebergang - (Inverell)**

Mixed Farming officer: 0429 217 066

**For information about available Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) and Roadside Grazing permits:**

**Ross Fuller (Team Leader):** 0429 909 827

**Warwick Storm (Inverell & Glen Innes):** 0437 030 373

**Guy Walker (Armidale):** 0427 007 187

**Ted Burke (Tenterfield):** 0428 964 521



Northern Tablelands Local Land Services regularly publishes newsletters for landholders containing seasonal information and producer updates. To subscribe please visit: <https://northerntablelands.lis.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/newsletters>



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