

North Coast Drought Support

Connecting landholders with help

October 2019

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

Full details at www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au

Transport Subsidy

Full details at www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au

On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate

Full details at www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au



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.

Casino: Steve Sibley 0429 626 191

Casino: Ross Turvey 0458 222 216

Macksville: Terry Pearce 0429 626 503

Other financial information & support

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

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



We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities

Local Land Services
www.lls.nsw.gov.au

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.

Coffs Harbour: Jen Haberecht 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 call the **NSW Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511** for advice.

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)

Lismore: Stephen Carrigg..... 0477 368 183
Grafton: Samantha Osborne..... 0402 892 642
Port Macquarie: Orry Berry..... 0409 834 501
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 Coast Local Land Services

North Coast 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 Office contact details.

Casino:

147 Barker St
Casino NSW 2470
Ph: 02 6661 2900

Coffs Harbour:

Level 1, 30 Park Avenue
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Ph: 02 6659 9400

South Grafton:

24-26 Mulgi Drive
South Grafton NSW 2460
Ph: 02 6604 1100

Kempsey:

83 Belgrave Street
Kempsey NSW 2440
Ph: 02 6563 6700

Lismore:

79 Conway St
Lismore NSW 2480
Ph: 02 6623 3900

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 Coast 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

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2018. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing May 2018. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

Local Land Services

www.lls.nsw.gov.au

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