

A photograph of three people standing in a field of tall, dry grass. On the left, a woman in a light blue shirt and jeans, wearing a blue and white cap. In the center, a woman in a pink shirt and denim shorts, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat. On the right, a man in a bright green shirt and dark shorts, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat. They appear to be in conversation.

North West Local Land Services

Connecting landholders with support

AUGUST 2021

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

LOANS

Farm Innovation Fund

The Farm Innovation Fund is a long term, low interest rate loan scheme for NSW farmers for permanent on-farm infrastructure. The Farm Innovation Fund helps farmers to:

- improve farm productivity
- manage adverse seasonal conditions
- ensure long term sustainability

www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/farm-innovation-fund

Regional Investment Corporation low-interest loans

Farmers can apply for drought loans of up to \$2 million, with two years interest free. AgBiz drought loans of up to \$500,000 are available for eligible small drought-affected businesses. Call **1800 875 675** or visit www.ric.gov.au

SUBSIDIES AND REBATES

Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme Round 2

The NSW Government and Commonwealth have together contributed \$30 million in additional funding to reopen the highly successful Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) program.

The EWIR scheme is designed to support NSW primary producers to invest in drought-proofing infrastructure to build resilience now and in future dry periods.

The rebate provides eligible primary producers access to a 25 per cent rebate, up to \$25,000, on purchases and installation costs of water infrastructure.

www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/ewir



MICE REBATE

Zinc Phosphide rebates for mouse control

Primary producers experiencing financial hardship as a result of the mouse plague may be eligible for rebates of 50% up to \$10,000 on purchases of zinc phosphide (ZnP) under the NSW Government's ZnP Rebate program.

For more information about the rebate, visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au or call NSW RAA on **1800 678 593**

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Natural Disaster Transport Subsidy

A natural disaster assistance transport subsidy is available to eligible farmers who are affected by a declared natural disaster event. This subsidy pays for the cost of transporting fodder and/or water to an affected property, stock to sale or slaughter, stock to/from agistment.

www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/natural-disaster-transport-subsidy

Special Disaster Grants – Storms & Floods

Disaster recovery grants of up to \$75,000 are available to primary producers in LGAs affected by the NSW storms and floods that have occurred from 19 February 2021 and from 10 March 2021.

www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-grants-floods

Disaster relief loans

Primary producers directly affected by a declared natural disaster who are in urgent and genuine need of assistance, may be eligible for low interest loans of up to \$130,000.

This low interest rate loan can help a farm business to:

continue to operate your farm businesses for the next twelve months or until the next income is received

replace and repair damage caused to the property and associated improvements not covered by insurance.

www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/disaster-recovery-loans/primary-producers

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Farmers can apply to receive an expert business coach who works with them and helps with their farming business, people and anything else. Coaching can give you the skills to run a more productive and profitable business.

www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au/fbrp/farm-business-coaching

YOUNG FARMER BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Young Farmer Business Program exists to help you improve your business skills, so that you can run a more productive and profitable farm or fishing businesses.

www.youngfarmer.farmtable.com.au/about-us/

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

Phone: **1800 940 404** www.rfcsnr.org.au

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.

Tamworth | **June Saint** 0427 924 798

Gunnedah | **Andrew Formann** 0447 393 624

Narrabri | **Frances Harvey** 0438 403 400

Moree | **Nasir Khan** 0439 807 712

Walgett | **Julie Casey** 0427 282 048

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:

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance

Farmers Hotline: **13 23 16**

OTHER ASSISTANCE

Farm Household Allowance (FHA)

Provides up to four years of support to eligible farming families experiencing financial hardship. Visit www.agriculture.gov.au/fha or call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on **132 316**.

Vouchers and debit cards

Immediate financial support for eligible farming families facing hardship:

- Up to \$500 debit cards for eligible farming families to spend locally – ask your local Rotarian for more information.
- Up to \$3,000 available via St Vincent de Paul (www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/drought_assistance)

Farm Management Deposits Scheme

The scheme allows eligible farmers to deposit up to \$800,000 in pre-tax income from primary production in years of high income, and drawn down on the money in future years. Visit www.ato.gov.au/Business/Primary-producers/In-detail/Farm-management-deposits-scheme

Primary Production asset depreciation

Depreciation arrangements specific to primary production, such as new water facilities, fodder storage assets and fencing. Visit www.ato.gov.au/Forms/Guide-to-depreciating-assets-2020/?page=16

Income tax averaging

Allows farmers to even out their high and low income years and the tax payable over a maximum of five years. Visit www.ato.gov.au/business/primary-producers/in-detail/tax-averaging-for-primary-producers



Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme

A range of payments for parents and carers of children who can't go to a local government school because of geographical isolation, disability or special needs. Visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/assistance-for-isolated-children-scheme

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 | **Kate Arndell** 0405 288 081

Tamworth | **Mathew Milne** 0437 989 044

Head office: Orange **02 6363 8444** www.ramhp.com.au

Lifeline

Phone: **13 11 14** www.lifeline.org.au/

Beyond Blue

Phone: **1300 22 4636** www.beyondblue.org.au

National Centre for Farmer Health

www.farmerhealth.org.au

LANDCARE GROUPS

Liverpool Plains				
Gunnedah Urban Landcare Group	Gunnedah	Mark Kesby	0428 429 244	gulg2380@gmail.com
Gunnible Landcare	Gunnedah	Margaret Hood	0457 421 503	lodgefarm85@bigpond.com
Project Koala	Gunnedah	Sandy Thomson	0438 532 466	phillip.thomson5@bigpond.com
Upper Mooki Landcare Group	Warrah Ck via Willow Tree	Nicky Chirlian	0488 056 199	nicky@tallawang.com
Wallabadah Creek Catchment Community	Wallabadah	George McDonald	0414 851 302	wallabadahwater@gmail.com
Northern Slopes				
Merimborough Landcare	Merimborough	Bruce & Dee Brierley / Di Shearin	6796 2657	brierley.dee@gmail.com
Yarrie Lake	Yarrie Lake	Jo Wilson	0429 956 127	yarrielakelandcare@gmail.com
Green Triangle Farming Groups	North West Slopes	Shelley McDouall	0418 642 715	admin@nsla.net.au
Gwydir Ark (Threatened Species Group)	Bingara	Ros Moulton	0412 081 642	gwydir.ark@gmail.com
North West Regional Koala Ark	Warialda	John Hodge	6729 1842	
Gineroi Landcare Group	Gineroi	Shelley McDouall	0418 642 715	admin@nsla.net.au
Gravesend Community Group	Gravesend	Shelley McDouall	0418 642 715	admin@nsla.net.au
Pallal Landcare	Pallal	Shelley McDouall	0418 642 715	admin@nsla.net.au
Rocky Creek Landcare group	Rocky Creek	Will Cannington	0427 834 280	willcan@activ8.com.au
Whitlow Landcare Group	Whitlow	Shelley McDouall	0418 642 715	admin@nsla.net.au
North West Plains				
Burren Junction Landcare Group	Burren Junction	Jenny Holcombe	0427 480 596	
Cumborah Hudson Pear Group	Cumborah	Jon Pocknell	6828 8490	
Walgett & District Garden Club	Walgett	Nicole Tuohey	0499 998 242	
Walgett Beautification and Betterment Group	Walgett	Chris Ford	0429 638 300	
Walgett Regenerative Grazing Group	Walgett	Cam Murray	0427 659 479	
Walgett Vertebrate Pest Control Assoc.	Walgett	David Berrell	0428 562 486	
North West Plains Sustainability Group	Walgett	Denielle Kilby	0447 077 344	nwpsg.coordinator@gmail.com
Tamworth Region				
Bubbogullion 100	Somerton	Wayne Chaffey	0400 358 217	naours@yahoo.com
Currabubula Landcare	Currabubula	Tim Duncan	0474 086 014	timothymerv@gmail.com
MacDonald River Restoration Group	Bendemeer	Anne & Winston Doak	6769 6693	fergietractormuster1@yahoo.com
Moore Creek Caves Trust & Landcare Group	Moore Creek	Paul Moxon	0425 337 475	moxonpaul469@gmail.com
Tamworth Regional Landcare Association	Tamworth	Jacqui Gidley-Baird	0425 337 475	jacqui@trla.org.au
Tamworth Urban Landcare Group	Tamworth	Paul Moxon	0425 337 475	moxonpaul469@gmail.com
Peel Wetlands Landcare Group	Hillvue West Tamworth	Tracey McLeod	0487 741 942	
Upper Peel Landcare	Nundle	Karlee Burgess	0488 930 588	kayleen.deaves@gmail.com
Upper Timbumburi	Timbumburi	James Smith	0408 565 196	james@northwestfinance.com.au
Attunga Landcare Group	Attunga	Judy Campbell	6769 5644	judith.campbell@det.nsw.edu.au
Sustainable North West	Tamworth	Penne Fraser	0409 196 484	penne@trla.org.au
Gomeri Yinar Landcare Group	Tamworth	Kaliela Thronton	0431 426 829	maayali.dhawun@gmail.com

NORTH WEST LOCAL LAND SERVICES

We're here to help

North West Local Land Services can help with 'boots on the ground' services during biosecurity emergencies and natural disasters. Our staff can assist producers with livestock and pasture advice, animal health issues, pest animal problems and applying for roadside grazing permits and available Travelling Stock Reserves.

Here is a list of important staff contacts.

District Veterinarians

Team Leader Bob McKinnon	0428 667 920
Gunnedah Judy Ellem	0428 402 482
Narrabri/Walgett Shaun Slattery	0428 922 607
Narrabri Megan Davies	0428 710 381
Tamworth Heidi Austin	0427 529 548
Moree Justine McNally	0428 299 133
Warialda Ted Irwin	0427 291 682

Biosecurity Officers

Team Leader Rebecca Gray	0402 073 463
Narrabri John Busby	0428 299 177
Tamworth Seamus Traynor	0448 617 182
Gunnedah Greg Lumber	0427 293 892
Walgett Camilla Stokes	0429 924 560
Warialda David Lindsay	0427 291 883
Moree Tim Daly	0428 432 308

Agriculture Extension staff

Team Leader Dale Kirby	0468 429 919
Cropping Bill Manning	0428 607 731
Mixed Farming George Truman	0427 505 040
Mixed Farming Kate Pearce	0429 900 329
Livestock Sally Balmain	0428 280 809
Livestock Naomi Hobson	0427 936 140

Travelling Stock Reserve Rangers

Team Leader Wayne Garnsey	0427 293 893
Warialda Scott Graham	0439 821 348
Narrabri Fay Anderson	0427 291 466
Walgett Mal Scott	0459 835 959
Gunnedah Jason Harrison	0448 592 907

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 is here to help you with information, advice and to connect you to the services you need.

As per the latest update from the NSW Government, measures are in place to protect NSW from the evolving COVID-19 outbreak.

We are changing our offices hours to better meet the needs of our customers. We are adding more time to our phone lines each day, with our lines now extended for an extra hour and a half – 8am to 5.30pm. You can always contact us via email, Facebook messenger and our online form.

Our offices are still open by appointment Monday to Friday, and we will have our traditional face to face customer service in our offices.

Please call to make an appointment as our staff are often on the ground, delivering our services to customers.

NARRABRI - 6790 7600

TAMWORTH - 6764 5900

GUNNEDAH - 6742 9200

WARIALDA - 6729 2000

MOREE - 6750 9000

WALGETT - 6828 6400

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-west

E: admin@northwest.nsw.gov.au

P: **1300 795 299**

Scan this QR code to sign up to receive our bi-monthly e-newsletter

