

December 2023

Department of Primary Industries

Drought assistance guide for primary producers

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS) coordinate and provide assistance and advise primary producers including aquaculturists, foresters and other industries impacted by drought.

- Visit DroughtHub at www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au. A ‘one stop shop’ website for primary producers, with information to prepare for and manage drought
- Contact Local Land Services for localised support on 1300 795 299 or visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au



Key resources

Resources	Details	Contact
Managing drought, fire and flood guide	A guide providing relevant information to effectively manage the impacts of current drought and other adverse events. It includes information on feeding livestock, farm management and sustainable practices as well as personal and financial wellbeing.	Managing drought, fire and flood (nsw.gov.au)
Drought plan template	A drought plan template to assist with forward planning for drought.	Drought plan template (nsw.gov.au)

Climate tools

Tool	Details	Contact
State Seasonal Update	Provides up to date information about current seasonal conditions. A monthly update on drought, rainfall and temperature for the past month, outlook for the coming three months and detailed breakdown of conditions by region.	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/climate
Combined Drought Indicator	An interactive tool that provides a snapshot of current seasonal conditions for NSW down to parish level	edis.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Farm Tracker App	A free and simple tool you can use to help monitor seasonal conditions on your property. It allows you to record conditions and provides links to other resources.	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/climate/seasonal-conditions-and-drought

Key support programs

Program	Details	Contact
Local Land Services	Local Land Services (LLS) provides technical advice on livestock feeding and nutrition, along with health and welfare advice. They manage permits for grazing on TSRs and roads and have Drought Adoption Officers to help with drought planning.	Phone: 1300 795 299 www.lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/drought Or visit your local office.
Rural Financial Counselling Service	Rural Financial Counselling Services (RFCS) is a free and impartial financial counselling service to help with financial planning and applying for assistance.	Northern NSW: rfcsnr.org.au/ Phone: 1800 344 090 Central & Southern NSW: rfcsnsw.com.au/ Phone: 1800 319 458
Farm Business Resilience Program	Support to farmers to develop business resilience plans, drought plans and other decision tools.	www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au/programs/farm-business-resilience-program
Young Farmer Business Program	The program helps young farmers gain the skills you need to setup and run a farming business.	www.youngfarmer.nsw.gov.au

Business Assistance

Program	Details	Contact
NSW Rural Assistance Authority - Drought Infrastructure Fund and the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund	<p>The Drought Infrastructure Fund (formerly the Farm Innovation Fund) offers low interest loans up to \$1 million to eligible primary producers to invest in permanent on-farm infrastructure.</p> <p>The Drought Ready and Resilient Fund offers low interest loans to farm businesses to fund a broad range of purchases, activities and services to assist with responding to and managing the ongoing impacts of drought</p>	<p>Phone: 1800 678 593 www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/fif</p> <p>Phone: 1800 678 593 www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/drrf</p>
Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner	Small Biz Connect is a personalised and highly subsidised business advisory program for small businesses in NSW, including agribusinesses.	<p>Phone: 1300 134 359 www.nsw.gov.au/topics/business-advice-and-support/about-business-connect</p>
Farm Household Allowance	A payment for farming families facing hardship. Individuals and families can apply for the Farm Household Allowance online or in person at Services Australia service centres.	<p>Farmer Assistance Hotline: 132 316 www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/farm-household-allowance</p>
Regional Investment Incorporation - Drought Loan & AgBiz Drought Loan	The Australian Government's Drought Loan and AgBiz Drought loans are to help prepare for, manage through and recover from drought.	<p>Phone: 1800 875 675 www.ric.gov.au/</p>
Australian Taxation Office	The ATO may offer assistance with meeting tax obligations for businesses impacted by drought.	<p>Phone: 1800 806 218 www.ato.gov.au/general/support-in-difficult-times/natural-disaster-support/drought-support</p>

Program	Details	Contact
Income Tax Averaging	Even out income and tax payable to allow for fluctuations.	Contact your accountant
Tax deductions	For fencing, dams, pumps, silos, bins, Landcare operations and carbon sink forests.	www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/assistance/tax-relief Contact your accountant
Farm Management Deposit Schemes	Set aside income in good years that you can draw on when you need it.	www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/assistance/fmd Contact your bank & accountant
Bank Support	Check with your specific bank to see what assistance and services they offer during droughts, as these can vary.	Contact your bank

Livestock management

Assistance	Details	Contact
Local Land Services	Advice on animal management, nutrition, and welfare.	Phone: 1300 795 299 www.lls.nsw.gov.au
Drought & supplementary feed calculator	The DPI drought and supplementary feed calculator is a free app to sheep and cattle producers to develop drought feed rations during drought and dry seasons.	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nutrition/feeding-practices/drought-and-supplementary-feed-calculator
DroughtHub	Visit DroughtHub's 'Looking after livestock' section to find a range of tools and technical information	www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au/looking-after-livestock
Bank Support	Assistance with emergency NVDs, LPA advice and NLIS transfers.	Phone: 1800 683 111 www.integritysystems.com.au

Health, wellbeing & safety

Assistance	Details	Contact
Emergency mental health support	If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department	Phone: 000
NSW Mental Health Line	NSW Health's 24/5 state-wide phone service which links people with NSW Health mental health services. It is a free service.	Phone: 1800 011 511 www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth
<p>Need Help Now?</p> <p>Having a tough time and need someone to talk to right now? The following services are there to listen and help you out.</p> <p>They are confidential and available 24/7</p>	Lifeline	Phone: 13 11 14
	Suicide Call Back Service	Phone: 1300 659 467
	Beyond Blue	Phone: 1300 224 636
	Mental health hotline (24/7)	Phone: 1800 011 511
	13 YARN (indigenous led crisis support)	Phone: 13 92 76
	Mensline	Phone: 1300 789 978
	Domestic Violence	Phone: 1800 737 732
Kids Helpline (to 24 years old)	Phone: 1800 551 800	
Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)	RAMHP provides a range of information services to individuals, communities and service providers to link rural and remote people to the help they need.	www.ramhp.com.au

Assistance	Details	Contact
DroughtHub	Visit DroughtHub's wellbeing and safety section to find information, templates and SafeWork rebates	www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au/Wellbeing

Charities and other support

Assistance	Details	Contact
Rural Aid	Rural Aid provides critical support including water, fodder (hay), financial and counselling assistance to help farmers (primary producers) who endure natural disasters. Registration forms will need to be completed before any requests can be addressed.	Phone: 1300 327 624 Link for registration: Rural Aid Financial Assistance – Rural Aid Farmers Assistance www.ruralaid.org.au
Lions Need for Feed	Donated fodder available through Lions. Register through website.	www.needforfeed.org
Red Cross	Practical help and resources to use before, during and after emergencies.	Phone 1800 733 276 www.redcross.org.au/emergencies
The Salvation Army	Salvation Army	Phone: 13 72 58 www.salvationarmy.org.au

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing October 2023. 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 the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.