

Natural Disaster Grants: Bushfires: Disaster recovery grants up to \$75,000 are now available to primary producers in LGA's affected by the NSW bushfires that have occurred from 31st August 2019.

Available funding and supporting evidence

- The maximum grant amount for clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures is \$75,000.
- Should an initial application be for less than the maximum grant amount, further applications may be submitted if additional expenditure is required to complete clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures.

Applicants must include evidence of direct damage with their application.

- This:
- a) must include photographic evidence of direct bushfire-related impacts, and
 - b) may include other evidence in addition to photographs such as quotes, estimates or tax invoices (if available) that demonstrate the impact of the eligible disaster, noting that, per 6.1b) this information may be sought through the audit process.

RAA Ph: 1800 678 593 - <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-grant-bushfires>

Special Disaster Loans – Bushfires:

Eligible primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits in LGAs affected by bushfires that have occurred since 31 August 2019 can now access special disaster loans of up to \$500,000.

There are two types of low interest loans available:

1. The Bushfire Working Capital Loan of up to \$50,000 over five years with a two year interest free and repayment free period.
2. The Bushfire Recovery Loan of up to \$500,000 over ten years, with a two year interest and payment free period.

RAA Ph: 1800 678 593 - <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/special-disaster-loan-bushfires>

Transport Subsidy Emergency Drought Relief: 50% rebate for the freight of fodder, water and livestock to sale, slaughter or agistment to a maximum of \$7.50/kilometre, dependent on vehicle type. Available from the 1st July 2019 and funded until 30 June 2020. Rebates up to \$50,000.

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/transport-subsidy-emergency-drought-relief>

Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme: The rebate is 25 % of the cost of purchase, delivery and installation of water infrastructure for animal welfare needs. The maximum that can be claimed is \$25,000. Allocated funding of \$12 million. Back dated to 1 July 2018. Applications close 30 June 2021.

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate-scheme>

Drought Assistance Fund: Interest free loans of up to \$50,000 are available to eligible primary producers to assist in implementing systems and management practices that enhance the sustainability of their enterprise. The loan is for a term of seven years, the first two years repayment free. The loan will assist with funding;

- Transport of livestock, transport of fodder and/or water
- Water infrastructure and fodder storage infrastructure
- Banking of genetic material of livestock
- Activities that would be normally incurred in the course of carrying on a farming operation

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/drought-assistance-fund>

Farm Innovation Fund Loans: Loans are now available from the NSW Rural Assistance Authority to assist with drought preparedness, environment, farm infrastructure and natural resources works. Loans up to \$1,000,000, up to a 20-year term, current interest rate is 2.5% which is fixed for the term of the loan.

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/farm-innovation-fund>

Farm Business Skills: Professional Development Program- NSW Dept. of Primary Industries. The program has \$45 million over 5 years for vocational training and farm business planning. The program will contribute up to 50% of the costs for eligible courses, up to a maximum of \$5,000 for the first person in the business, and a total of \$9,000 for all members of the business over a 5-year period. Closes July 2020.

RAA Ph: 1800 678 593 - <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training>

Regional Investment Corporation: Concessional Loans: Drought and Farm investment loans to assist with preparation for drought and recovery from drought. Loans can refinance existing debt or access new debt for operating expenses. Loans are available up to \$2,000,000. Commencing in January 2020 the terms will be a two-year interest and repayment free period, followed by three years interest only at an interest rate of 2.11%, then a five year interest and principle repayment.

Ph: 1800 875 675 <http://www.ric.gov.au/farmers>

Income Support for Farmers:

Farm Household Allowance: The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) will help farmers with their daily living expenses, and is available to farmers Australia wide, **without** the need for a drought declaration. This allowance will provide eligible farmers and their partners with up to four years of income support. This payment is equivalent to the Newstart Allowance and is paid fortnightly. Recipients will receive an additional \$3000 Activity Supplement for professional advice or training and will be supported by case managers as they undertake these activities to improve their situation and prepare for the future. The total farm net asset upper limit is \$5,000,000.

Dept. Human Service - Drought and Farmer Assistance Hotline: 13 23 16

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance>

CWA Drought Aid Fund: Assistance to meet household expenses for drought affected families, up to a **maximum of \$3,000 per family/household**. Expenses can include grocery bills, vehicle maintenance, school, electricity, rates, telephone, medical treatments etc.

Ph: 83370200 CWA: Website: <https://www.cwaofnsw.org.au/droughtaid>

Rural Aid: Assistance to access livestock fodder and household financial assistance on a case by case basis.

Ph. 1300 327 624 Buy a Bale: Website: <https://www.buyabale.com.au/>

Drought Community Support Initiative:

\$3000 per drought impacted household, to be distributed by the Salvation Army **Ph: 1300 551 030**

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/rural-support/drought-community-support-initiative/>