

FUNDING UPDATES

St Vincent de Paul & The Salvation Army - Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI)

Round 2 Drought Community Support Initiative funding will be extended into the 2020 / 2021 financial year. **Up to \$3,000 per household is available** to farmers, farm workers or farm suppliers/contractors who are struggling financially because of the drought. You must be over 18 years of age to apply, be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident, and live or work in an eligible Local Government Area.

This means community members who have not received the assistance since 19 November 2019 are eligible for this assistance. **Each household can receive up to \$3,000**, if there is more than one on a property, each household can apply. The Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul are responsible for specific local government areas, with The Salvation Army responsible for the Glen Innes Severn Shire & Tenterfield.

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

Salvation Army Ph: 1300 551 030

FHA - Farm Household allowance 5 Changes

Income Support for Farmers - Farm Household Allowance

New amendment and simplification of the application process; A new online claim that can be used by both members of a couple. 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.

From 11 June 2020, it is now easier to get Farm Household Allowance (FHA) and meet its obligations.

- **New combined simplified assets test** will mean all [assets](#) (farm and non-farm) will be counted under a single net value threshold of \$5.5 million.
- **Payments** - If you are eligible for FHA, you will be paid at the [maximum rate](#). Your payment will no longer reduce if you earn extra income.
- **A change to the Farm Financial Assessment**, rules have been relaxed about who can help you do your [Farm Financial Assessment](#). The main change is we no longer require the person to be a member of a professional association.
- **Increase to activity supplements** - The [activity supplements](#) total amount is now \$10,000. It used to be \$4,000. This amount is available once. It does not reset each time you get FHA.
- **Changes to activity supplements** - Before, you could use activity supplements to help pay for activities in your Financial Improvement Agreement. This included training, study, advice, or counselling. You can now also use them to pay for travel and accommodation to do an activity.
- You still need to check with your Farm Household Case Officer first. They will tell you if you can pay for the activity with an activity supplement.

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

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

Transport Subsidy Emergency Drought Relief - Closing 30 June 2020

Applications for round 2 funding of the Drought Transport Subsidy are closing on 30 June 2020.

For all invoices dated 1 January 2018 – 30 June 2020. All invoices must be submitted by 30 Sept 2020

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.

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

Round Three Drought Transport Subsidy funding opens on 1 July 2020.



Farm Business Skills - Closing 30 June 2020 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.

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

Drought Assistance Fund – Continuing until funds are exhausted – Available funds currently at \$94,842,032

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 while carrying on a farming operation

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

RIC Loan to Continue - 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>

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>

Closed - Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme There has been an unprecedented demand for the EWIR program which has seen available funding exhausted.