

June 2020

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- Farm Business Management and Planning support



Drought support Millewa and surrounds

The Victorian Government provides a range of assistance to support local communities and farm businesses to manage the impact of drought, including information, tools and resources provided by Agriculture Victoria.

For more information call 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

Financial and Employment Support

Farmers' Drought Fund

On-Farm Drought Resilience Grant Program

The maximum value of the On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants has increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to boost farmers' access to professional services while still enabling farmers to invest in drought preparedness infrastructure. Eligible farm businesses can now apply for:

- Up to \$5,000 for business decision making activities (with no-contribution required)
- Up to \$5,000 for infrastructure investments (with at least 50 per cent co-contribution required).

Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit ruralfinance.com.au

Farm Machinery Improvement Program

Grants of up to \$10,000 per eligible dryland farm are available for the maintenance of essential on-farm machinery and equipment to meet key operational requirements and prepare for the 2020 growing season.

Call the Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 882 833 or visit vff.org.au

Farmers' Drought Fund

Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA) Drought Relief

The Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria is providing household relief up to a maximum of \$3,000 per individual applicant and/or household and is available for farming families, farm workers and contractors that are drought-affected and reliant on farming as their primary source of income.

Visit cwaofvic.org.au/drought-relief/
Anyone seeking a copy of the application form or requiring assistance to complete the application can contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or email the CWA on drought@cwaofvic.org.au

Local Government Service Support payment

This payment provides local governments with flexibility to support drought affected farming businesses and their communities in 2019-20. Mildura Rural City Council is using the payment to support rate relief for drought affected farm businesses in the Millewa.

Call Mildura Rural City Council on (03) 5018 8100 or email mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au

Farm Employment Exchange

The Farm Employment Exchange Pilot Project aims to facilitate connections and employment exchange between farmers looking for additional work due to drought, and potential employers.

Call the Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 882 833 or visit farmemploymentexchange.org.au/

Financial and Employment Support

Catchment Management Authority Drought Employment Program	The program is part of the Victorian Government's drought response package and will provide flexible work options for people who have suffered financial hardship as a result of the drought in the Millewa and Carwarp areas.	Call Mallee CMA on (03) 5051 4377, email DEP@malleecma.com.au or visit malleecma.com.au/current-vacancies/
Agriculture Energy Investment Plan	On-farm energy grants are available to eligible primary producers until June 2020 or until available funding is exhausted. Grants will be provided on a "dollar for dollar" cash co-contribution basis.	Call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy
Victorian State Concessions	The Victorian Government offers a number of concessions designed to assist and improve the affordability of essential services for low-income Victorian households.	Call 1300 650 172 or visit services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits
Australian Tax Office – Drought help	Tax advice for drought affected taxpayers.	Call 1800 806 218 or visit ato.gov.au/drought
Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)	The RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance (FHA).	Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call Sun RFCS: 1300 769 489 or visit agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service
Farm Household Allowance	The Australian Government makes an income support payment available to eligible farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.	Call 132 316 or visit humanservices.gov.au (search for Farm Household Allowance on the homepage)
Farmer Assistance Hotline (Aust Govt)	Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities.	Call 132 316 or visit humanservices.gov.au (search for Farmer Assistance Hotline on the homepage)
Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) Drought Loan	The Australian Government has established the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC). The RIC offers a Drought Loan of up to \$2 million to assist farmers to prepare for, manage and recover from the effects of drought.	Call 1800 875 675 or visit ric.gov.au/
Drought Community Support Initiative (Aust Govt)	A one-off payment of \$3000 for eligible farmers, farm workers, farm suppliers or contractors in areas impacted by drought or dry seasonal conditions in the Mildura local government area.	Call 1300 846 643 or visit vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/drought_assistance/

Technical Support

Farm Business Management and Planning Support	Agriculture Victoria delivers technical and decision-making support services to assist farm businesses manage dry seasonal conditions. Working with our industry partners the department provides services across industries including beef, sheep, dairy, grains, horticulture and irrigation. Agriculture Victoria also has technical information, videos and tools on topics such as: stock containment areas, feeding and managing livestock during dry seasonal conditions, resources to support climate change and risk management and business management information and support for young farmers.	Call 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or email drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au For information on workshops and events, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops
One-on-one consultation sessions	Agriculture Victoria is providing Millewa farmers with the opportunity to engage in one-on-one consultation sessions to assist them to manage current seasonal conditions and access support services. These consultations cover a range of topics including feed budgeting, feed rations, partial budgets, hay and crop decision making, water use and resource management, in addition to signposting other services such as Rural Financial Counsellors, Farm Household Allowance and concessional loans programs.	Call 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or email drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au For information on workshops and events, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops
Stock containment areas	Agriculture Victoria has developed resources to support farmers in designing and managing stock containment areas. Stock containment areas are a valuable tool to manage livestock and to protect soil and pasture resources during adverse seasonal conditions. Farmers with livestock can request a one-on-one visit from Agriculture Victoria staff to learn more about establishing a stock containment area.	Call 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/livestock-after-an-emergency/stock-containment-areas or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information.

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On-farm discussion groups and drop-in sessions

Agriculture Victoria will deliver several on-farm discussion groups to discuss options for managing livestock, soil management and additional targeted information to assist farmers make timely decisions.

Call 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or email drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au

For information on workshops and events, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops

Farm Hub (Aust Govt)

Farm Hub aims to provide farmers with a single portal through which they can access information about assistance and advice to manage hardship.

Visit farmhub.org.au

Personal and Family Support

Mental Health Support

The Mental Health Support package includes additional counselling and co-ordination and psychological first aid training. If you need immediate assistance with your mental health and wellbeing, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. If you need emergency assistance, call 000.

Mallee Drought Package Coordinator

Bruce Thorne, DHHS
Bruce.Thorne@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Rural Aid

Rural Aid provides support for farmers including a one-off \$1,500 cash payment for bill expenses (applicants need to meet eligibility requirements and register online). Farmers can also register for fodder, fuel and food vouchers and domestic water deliveries.

Call 1300 327 624 or visit ruralaid.org.au

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Call 131 114 or visit lifeline.org.au

Beyondblue

24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.

Call 1300 224 636 or visit beyondblue.org.au

National Centre for Farmer Health

The National Centre for Farmer Health provides ongoing leadership to improve the health wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers, families and communities.

Call (03) 5551 8533 or visit farmerhealth.org.au

Look Over the Farm Gate Program

Look Over the Farm Gate provides funding for communities to deliver health and wellbeing support through community awareness and social and emotional wellbeing workshops and events.

Call 1300 882 833 or visit lookoverthefarmgate.org.au

MensLine Australia

24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.

Call 1300 78 99 78 or visit mensline.org.au

Kids Help Line

24/7 telephone and online counselling service for people aged 5 - 25.

Call 1800 55 1800 or visit kidshelpline.com.au

Family Relationship Service

Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.

Call 1800 050 321 or visit familyrelationships.gov.au

Farm Hub

Farm Hub aims to provide farmers with a single portal through which they can access information about assistance and advice to manage hardship.

Visit farmhub.org.au

Victorian Better Health Channel

Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date and easy to understand.

Visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au
Nurse on call 1300 606 024

State Schools' Relief

Provides new school uniforms, shoes and books for families who are facing hardship.

Contact your child's school or visit education.vic.gov.au (search state schools' relief) or <https://ssr.net.au/>

Royal Flying Doctor Service

Free, confidential mental health and wellbeing service for people living in rural and remote communities.

Call (03) 8412 0400 or visit flyingdoctor.org.au/vic

Mental Health Care Plan

A mental health care plan provides Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or 10 group appointments with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker in a year.

Contact your local GP for a referral healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan

Community Health Care providers

Community Health services provide a range of primary health care services that could include: acute hospital care, medical centre, home and community care, district nursing, women's health, allied health services (podiatry, occupational therapy etc.), counselling, pharmacy, referrals.

Contact your local Community Health service to confirm their services.

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Regional Support

Community Priorities Fund	Funding for Mildura Rural City Council to support small community infrastructure projects, community events and initiatives that bring communities together.	Call Mildura Rural City Council on (03) 5018 8100 or email mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au
Managing wildlife on private land	Permits are available for the control wildlife on private land.	Contact DELWP on 136 186 or visit wildlife.vic.gov.au
Improved access to Emergency Water Supply Points (EWSPs)	Funding to improve access to emergency water supply points where there is a high incidence of water carting. The program will be delivered by rural water corporations in partnership with local councils where need has been identified.	Contact DELWP on 136 186 or visit water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal	The Tackling Tough Times Together grant program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the ongoing effects of the drought. Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.	Call 1800 170 020 or visit www.frrr.org.au/
Regional Drought Coordinator	The key point of coordination at the local level, providing information on drought services, support options, emerging risks and pressures in the region.	Sue McConnell, Agriculture Victoria (03) 5051 4543

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