

2018 Drought funding Frequently asked questions

Local Land Services

13 June 2018

What does this drought funding package include?

Increased financial support - \$279 million in NSW Budget 2018, bringing NSW Government's drought relief package to more than \$579 million (over half a billion dollars).

- Farm innovation fund – additional \$250 million.
 - \$250,000 low interest loans to improve infrastructure and ensure long term productivity and sustainable land use
 - \$50,000 seven-year interest free loan for fodder and grain and to install water infrastructure
 - Funding to collect and store genetics of their herd or flock
- Streamlining kangaroo management to reduce kangaroo numbers
- Doppler weather stations – three new Doppler radar weather stations in the Central West and Far West of NSW to provide real time weather coverage for 30% of the state.
- Funding for mental health - \$4 million. Support for 13 state-wide coordinators through the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health and counselling support through the National Association for Loss and Grief.

(See pdf summaries for more detail)

What other assistance is available?

The following measures have been available since 2015.

- Finance – there are a number of measures available (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/loans>)
- Transport for animal welfare/donated fodder transport (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/transport-subsidies>)
- Skills and training
- Support and advice

How do I get more information?

Visit the Drought hub – one-stop online page with information regarding drought. Google 'droughthub' or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub.

Local Land Services staff are on the ground to support you.

We offer hands-on support where possible and can provide up to date localised information about managing and recovering from drought.

More specifically:

- our Livestock Officers provide technical advice on feeding and nutrition



Local Land
Services

www.ils.nsw.gov.au
We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities.

- our District Veterinarians manage and advise on livestock health and welfare
- our TSR rangers manage permits for grazing on TSRs and roads

Local Land Services is holding drought information sessions across NSW.

Visit - <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/emergency/drought> for list of upcoming events and contact details for local staff.

This page also includes

- Publications, factsheets and other information
- Videos and webinars

Will I be eligible for funding?

The eligibility criteria is explained on the Rural Assistance Authority website, which can be accessed through the drought hub. The RAA page is <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-assistance-fund>

I'm not coping.

Drought can be an exceptionally stressful time. I suggest you speak with a counsellor from the Rural Aversity Mental Health Program. They are specially trained to provide help to people living in rural communities. I can find you a contact person via their website if you provide me with your postcode - <http://www.ramhp.com.au/find-ramhp-coordinator/>

In an emergency you need to call 000 or go to your nearest hospital Emergency Department.

Why aren't LLS rates being waived?

Local Land Services rates are critical to fighting biosecurity risks and outbreaks, such as yellow crazy ants at present, disease surveillance and managing travelling stock reserves, which are essential during drought. Longer term payment plans are available for those landholders who may have trouble paying their rates.

How do I connect with commercial kangaroo harvesters?

The process is still being negotiated between Department of Primary Industries and the Office of Environment and Heritage. Keep an eye on the drought hub website for more information as it becomes available.

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For updates go to www.lls.nsw.gov.au