



# assistanceguide

AUGUST 2009

The following information is general in nature and although we have provided some figures, **please don't self assess**.

Take the time to speak with the **agency** concerned, a **Drought Support Worker**, or a **Rural Financial Counsellor**.

**NSW DPI Drought Hotline:**  
**1800 814 647**

8.30am to 4.30 pm –  
Monday to Friday

## Drought Support Workers

Drought Support Workers provide support for families during drought and other emergencies, such as floods, fires and storms. This often involves supplying information on what support and assistance is available and who may be eligible, along with help with the multitude of forms. Drought Support Workers can also provide personal support to people who just want to talk. This can involve talking to farmers and their families on the phone, visiting on their farms or talking to small groups of neighbours.

A significant aspect of the work is development within rural communities to help maintain social bonds and community ties that may be stretched due to the stresses that many people are under. The co-ordination of Farm Family Gatherings helps to bring people together and overcome the isolation that stress and depression can cause.

**The information in this guide is general in nature and people should check with the listed provider of the service regarding their personal situation.**

Location	Drought Support Worker	Office number	Mobile	Email
BOURKE	Lyn Leigo	(02) 6872 2077	0427 265 810	lyn.leigo@dpi.nsw.gov.au
PARKES	Jan Bruce	(02) 6816 3302	0427 257 191	jan.bruce@dpi.nsw.gov.au
GUNNEDAH	Jenny Croft	(02) 6741 8336	0429 446 417	jenny.croft@dpi.nsw.gov.au
COROWA	Don Burrowes	(02) 6033 4245	0427 324 033	don.burrowes@dpi.nsw.gov.au
DUBBO	Pip Brown	(02) 6881 1266	0429 396 697	pip.brown@dpi.nsw.gov.au
SCONE	Caroline Long	(02) 6544 4900	0428 296 322	caroline.long@dpi.nsw.gov.au
WAGGA	Lloyd Kingham	(02) 6938 1987	0427 957 535	lloyd.kingham@dpi.nsw.gov.au
GOULBURN	Dick Kearins	(02) 4828 6614	0427 781 514	dick.kearins@dpi.nsw.gov.au
HAY	Danny Byrnes	(02) 6993 1608	0428 973 141	danny.byrnes@dpi.nsw.gov.au
GRIFFITH	Lou Revelant	(02) 6960 1313	0419 167 662	lou.revelant@dpi.nsw.gov.au



NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Website for updates:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pubs/drought-support-services>

## Financial Support

<p><b>EC Relief Payment</b> Up to \$810.80 / fortnight (also available to agriculture-dependent small businesses)</p>	<p>Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment (ECRP) assists farm families in EC declared areas who are experiencing difficulties meeting basic living expenses.</p> <p>The payment is subject to an assets and income test, with a \$20,000 off-farm salary and wages exemption. Assets, including the farm, that are essential to the running of the business are not included in the assets test.</p> <p><b>Please check your EC status with your local Livestock Health &amp; Pest Authority.</b></p>	<p><i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a></p> <p><i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i> <a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance">www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance</a></p>
<p><b>EC Interest Rate Subsidy</b> Up to \$100,000 / year (also available to agriculture-dependent small businesses)</p>	<p>Exceptional Circumstance Interest Rate Subsidy (ECIRS) provides business support to farms that are viable in the long term, but are in financial difficulties due to an EC event.</p> <p>Interest rate subsidies are provided at 50 per cent of the interest payable on new and existing loans for the first year of an EC declaration and at 80 per cent in the second and subsequent years, up to a maximum of \$100,000 in any 12-month period and \$500,000 over five years.</p> <p><b>Please check your EC status with your local Livestock Health &amp; Pest Authority.</b></p>	<p><i>Rural Assistance Authority</i> 1800 678 593 <a href="http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au">www.raa.nsw.gov.au</a></p> <p><i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i> <a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance">www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance</a></p>
<p><b>Pension Bonus Scheme</b></p>	<p>A voluntary scheme that rewards people who defer claiming Age Pension. To benefit you must register as a member then continue to meet a flexible work test for at least 12 months before claiming the Pension Bonus. <b>No new entry to PBS after 20/09/2009.</b></p>	<p><i>Centrelink Rural Service Officers Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>EC Exit Grant</b> Up to \$150,000, plus Professional Advice &amp; Training Grant of up to \$10,000 and Relocation Grant of up to \$10,000.</p>	<p>The EC Exit Grant is designed to help low-asset drought-affected farm owners who have a significant long-term personal and financial attachment to their property and choose to leave farming. The Grant is a one-off, time limited payment to farmers considering their options outside of farming. The amount reduces once the farmer's net assets, after the sale of the farm, reach \$350,000 with the Grant reducing to zero when the net assets reach \$575,000.</p>	<p><i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a></p> <p><i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i> <a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance">www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/assistance</a></p>

<b>Climate Change Adjustment Program</b> (must not be in an EC-declared area)	<p><b>1. Adjustment Advice and Training Grants- Up to \$5,500</b>  Assists farmers to obtain professional advice and training to adjust and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Must have net assets of less than \$1,500,000, including farm assets and the principal residence.</p> <p><b>2. Adjustment Assistance</b>  Grants up to \$150,000 are available to eligible farmers who have considered their options and have made the decision to leave farming. Advice and training assistance up to \$5500 will be available to assist in leaving the farm. Eligible farmers with net assets of \$350,000 or less after the sale of the farm and farm assets can receive the full \$150,000 of the re-establishment grant. No grant is payable when net assets reach \$575,000.</p> <p><b>3. Transitional Income Support - Up to \$810.80 /fortnight/family.</b> The program assists farm families, not EC declared, in financial difficulty to manage the impacts of climate change on their farm business, by providing short term income support and advice and training opportunities. Assets and income criteria apply.</p>	<p><i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i>  13 23 16  www.centrelink.gov.au</p> <p><i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i>  www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/climate-change-adjustment-assistance</p> <p>Check EC status of your area by contacting your local Livestock Health &amp; Pest Authority.</p>
<b>Private Native Forestry Reform Package</b> Up to \$120,000	Available to landholders and forest growers adversely affected by the Private Native Forestry code	<i>Department of Environment and Climate Change</i> (02) 9995 6723
<b>Tax relief</b> Benefit: varies	For those whose income is made in drought affected areas, provides more time to pay tax debts; instalment payments without interest charges; & measures such as deductions on water facilities.	<i>Australian Tax Office</i> 13 11 42 select option 3 www.ato.gov.au
<b>Rural household out of tank water</b> Up to \$400	For low income rural households which rely on tank water for their household needs because they are not connected to a town water supply.	<i>Department of Community Services</i> 1800 018 444 www.community.nsw.gov.au
<b>Transport Subsidies</b> Benefit: varies	Property must have a Property Identification Code and livestock in a drought declared area. Covers 50% transport costs for fodder, livestock below fat score 3 and stock and domestic water	<i>Local Livestock Health &amp; Pest Authority</i> 02 6391 3242
<b>Youth Allowance</b>	Students whose parents are receiving an EC Relief Payment are exempt from the Youth Allowance Parental Means Test and may be entitled to the maximum payment rate	<i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 www.centrelink.gov.au
<b>Department of Community Services Drought Relief Payment</b> Up to \$2000	Farm and non farm households <b>NOT</b> in an EC declared area and <b>NOT</b> in receipt of Centrelink income support, with insufficient income or cash reserves to meet basic living needs	<i>Department of Community Services</i> 1800 018 444 www.community.nsw.gov.au

<b>Rentstart</b>	Provides quick financial help to clients in need, particularly those facing homelessness	NSW Department of Housing 1800 629 212 <a href="http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au">www.housing.nsw.gov.au</a>
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## Business Management Support

<b>Professional Advice &amp; Planning Grants</b> Up to \$5,500	Provides eligible farm enterprises with funds to access business & financial advice & planning assistance to help develop written business plans. Previous clients can access an additional \$2200 to re-evaluate their plans.	<i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
<b>Climate Change Adjustment Program Advice and Training</b> Up to \$5,500	Assist farmers to obtain professional advice and training to adjust and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Must have net assets of less than \$1,500,000, including farm assets and the principal residence. <b>Only available if not in an EC declared area.</b>	<i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
<b>FarmReady Reimbursement Grant</b> Up to \$1500 per financial year/individual.	Training to improve risk management & business management skills, increase adoption of new technologies and best practice management to enable primary producers & industries to adapt & respond to the impacts of climate change.	<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i> 1800 087 670 <a href="http://www.farmready.gov.au">www.farmready.gov.au</a>
<b>Special Conservation Scheme</b> Up to \$150,000	Net Assets Limit \$5,000,000. Submit an application for a low interest loan for up to 90% of costs before work is started on hail netting, soil conservation work, stock and domestic water supply, noxious weed control, upgrading irrigation systems, desilting dams, hay and grain storage, and establishing perennial pastures.	<i>Rural Assistance Authority</i> 1800 678 593 <a href="http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au">www.raa.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Farm Management Deposits</b>	Encourages farmers to set aside pre-tax income in good years for use in low income years. EC declared farmers can access FMD's within 12 months and retain tax benefits	<i>Tax Office</i> 13 28 66 <a href="http://www.ato.gov.au">www.ato.gov.au</a>
<b>Agstart</b> Various grants	Assists people aged between 18 and 35 at the start of their career in agriculture and agribusiness. Submit an application for reimbursement of stamp duty, traineeships, succession planning, mentoring, setting up in agribusiness, exporting. <b>Contact NSW RAA to check on availability.</b>	<i>Rural Assistance Authority</i> Jacinta Townsend 02 6391 3081 <a href="http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au">www.raa.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Rural Financial Counselling</b> A free service	Rural Financial Counsellors provide free, confidential financial planning & advice to primary producers. They can also assist with farm debt mediation with banks.	<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i> <a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/rfcs">www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/rfcs</a>
<b>Business Improvement and Recovery Strategies</b> Up to \$3000	Small regional businesses are able to apply for this grant to directly implement business improvement and recovery strategies or engage external expertise to help sustain their operations during and beyond the drought	<i>NSW Department of State and Regional Development</i> 02 9338 6600 <a href="http://www.business.nsw.gov.au">www.business.nsw.gov.au</a>

<b>Farm Debt Mediation</b>	<b>Contact a Rural Financial Counsellor</b> if you need help to negotiate with your bank. See the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry website for an up-to-date list of Rural Financial Counsellors.	<i>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Forestry</i> www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/rfcs <i>Rural Assistance Authority</i> 1800 678 593 www.raa.nsw.gov.au
<b>Caring for Our Country</b> Up to \$50,000	<b>Contact NSW RAA for information.</b> Caring for our Country is the Australian Government's new environmental management initiative. It aims to achieve an environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed, resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate. The program will be delivered in partnership with regional natural resources management groups, local, state and territory governments, Indigenous groups, industry bodies, land managers, farmers, landcare groups and communities.	<i>Caring for our Country</i> 1800 552 008 www.nrm.gov.au
<b>Catchment Management Authorities</b>	Various grants programs that can assist in the environmental development of your property	<i>www.cma.nsw.gov.au/</i>
<b>AusIndustry</b>	AusIndustry is the Australian Government's business program delivery division with a range of more than 35 business products, including innovation grants; tax and duty concessions; venture capital; small business services; and support for industry competitiveness.	<i>Ausindustry Hotline</i> 13 28 46 www.ausindustry.gov.au
<b>Legal Information Access Centre</b>	Free access to law information through the State Library, and a referral guide to free legal advice and assistance is available.	(02) 9273 1558 www.liac.sl.nsw.gov.au
<b>Legal Aid Help Line</b>	Solicitors and other trained staff are available to answer legal questions	1300 888 529 www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au
<b>Fair Trading</b>	Free financial counselling, personal finance or mortgage negotiation, consumer and tenancy advice	<i>NSW Office of Fair Trading</i> 133 220 www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au
<b>EC Interest Rate Subsidies for Small Business</b> Up to \$100 000 / year	Must have a registered ABN, in business for > 2years, < 100 full time employees and > 70% turnover from activities for goods and/or services to farms in an EC area <b>or</b> based in a town with a population of 10000 or less in an EC area and business substantially reliant on farmers and affected by drought.	<i>Rural Assistance Authority</i> 1800 678 593 www.raa.nsw.gov.au
<b>EC Drought Relief Payment for Small Business</b> Up to \$810.80 / fortnight	Must have a registered ABN with < 100 FTE employees, contribute significant labour and capital to business and derive significant income from business. Non business assets < \$750 000. Must show 70% or more income from providing goods and services to farm related activities <b>OR</b> in a town with population of 10000 or less in EC area.	<i>Centrelink Rural Service Officers</i>  <i>Centrelink</i> 13 23 16 www.centrelink.gov.au
<b>Workcover NSW Safety Package</b> Up to \$1700	Free PTO guards valued up to \$200, silo safety improvements up to \$1000 and eligible farmers and business operators can apply for a \$500 rebate after attending a Workcover NSW safety workshop, then investing in safety.	<i>Workcover</i> 13 10 50 www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

<b>Business Sustainability Program</b>	This program offers strategic and practical support to established regional businesses experiencing distress due to a recent decline in turnover caused by the loss of major customers, markets or consumer confidence. Assistance of up to \$5,000 is available subject to eligibility criteria.	<i>NSW Department of State and Regional Development</i> <a href="http://www.dsrd.nsw.gov.au">www.dsrd.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Small Business Payroll Tax Relief</b>	For businesses that support the farm industry sector with up to 200 employees.	<i>NSW Department of State and Regional Development</i> <a href="http://www.dsrd.nsw.gov.au">www.dsrd.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Business Enterprise Centres</b>	BEC Australia is a national network of Business Enterprise Centres, which offer business advice and support to small and micro businesses including information on Federal and State Government Grants and assistance available.	<a href="http://www.becaustalia.org.au">www.becaustalia.org.au</a>

## Health and Wellbeing

<b>Health Care card</b> Various concessions	Farm families receiving EC Relief Payment may obtain health concessions, such as cheaper prescriptions, as well as household, educational, recreational and transport services.	<i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
<b>Low Income Health Care Card</b>	Those people earning < \$450 / week single or < \$783 / week partnered with one child may obtain health concessions such as cheaper prescriptions, household, educational, recreational and transport services.	<i>Centrelink Rural Service Officers</i>  <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
<b>Isolated Patients Travel &amp; Accommodation Assistance Scheme</b>	Financial assistance for isolated and rural people required to travel more than 100km for specialist medical treatment not available in their own area.	<i>NSW Department of Health, Transport Unit</i> (02) 9391 9000
<b>Accessline</b>	Greater Southern Area Health Service 24 hour counselling & referral service	1800 800 944
<b>Rural Mental Health Support Line</b>	Provides counselling and related support to farmers and others in rural areas in NSW	1800 201 123
<b>Drought Mental Health Project Officers</b>	Provide information to give communities a better understanding of mental health issues.	<i>Centre for Rural &amp; Remote Mental Health</i> <a href="http://www.crrmh.com.au">www.crrmh.com.au</a>
<b>Social Workers/Rural Psychologists</b>	Provide counselling and support to Centrelink customers with difficult personal or family issues.	<i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
<b>Women's Information and Referral Service</b>	Free, confidential and culturally sensitive service offers a first stop contact point for women seeking information and referrals on a wide range of issues affecting women.	1800 817 227 <a href="http://www.women.nsw.gov.au">www.women.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Mensline</b>	Offers 24 hour/7 day professional, anonymous telephone support, information and referral using approaches that suit the way men think and behave.	1300 789 978 <a href="http://www.menslineaus.org.au">www.menslineaus.org.au</a>
<b>Kids Help Line</b>	Australia's only free, confidential and anonymous telephone & online counselling service for young people between 5 -25	1800 55 1800 <a href="http://www.kidshelp.com.au">www.kidshelp.com.au</a>
<b>Headspace</b>	Walk in counselling for 12 – 25 year olds	<a href="http://www.headspace.org.au">www.headspace.org.au</a>
<b>Centacare</b>	Counsellors can visit farms to provide family and relationships advice and support.	Find your local Centacare office in White Pages directory.
<b>Relationships Australia</b>	Counsellors can visit farms to provide family and relationships advice and support.	1300 364 277 <a href="http://www.relationships.com.au">www.relationships.com.au</a>

<b>Intereach</b>	Counsellors can visit farms to provide family and relationships advice and support and community support.	<a href="http://www.communicare5000.websyte.com.au/">www.communicare5000.websyte.com.au/</a>
<b>Mission Australia</b>	Counsellors can visit farms to provide family and relationships advice and support.	(02) 9641 5000 <a href="http://www.missionaustralia.com.au">www.missionaustralia.com.au</a>
<b>SANE</b>	Provides information about symptoms, treatments, medications, where to go for support and help for anyone concerned about mental illness.	1800 187 263

## Community Support and Networks

<b>NSW Department of Primary Industries</b>	Assistance to organise, co-ordinate and fund community events such as farm family gatherings and information sessions.	Contact your local Drought Support Worker listed at the front of this document.
<b>'Just Ask' Rural Mental Health</b>	Information service and referral for people with mental health problems, as well as for concerned friends, relatives.	<i>Lifeline</i> 1300 131 114
<b>Rainy Day Foundation</b>	Rainy Day is working with the Salvation Army to distribute funds to communities in need	Roz Escott-Gregory 0425 337 713 <a href="mailto:roz@rainyday.org.au">roz@rainyday.org.au</a>
<b>Community Transport Program</b>	Provides transport to people without access to regular, affordable and appropriate transport to medical, business, and social engagements.	<i>Ministry of Transport</i> 1800 227 774
<b>Red Cross</b>	Red Cross cares for people whose lives have been touched by tragedy or disaster.	02 9229 4111
<b>Anglicare</b>	Provides emergency relief, counselling and welfare services to the general community	13 26 22
<b>St Vincent de Paul</b>	Personal support, farm visits, advocacy, food, clothing and some financial assistance	<a href="http://www.vinnies.org.au">www.vinnies.org.au</a>
<b>The Salvation Army</b>	Counselling, referral and limited household financial assistance in emergencies	Les & Nolene Barrass 0429 720 071
<b>Presentation Sisters</b>	Rural outreach service	Ann McRae 0428 388 044
<b>Uniting Church</b>	Rural Chaplain Service and some emergency financial assistance	Kel Hodge 6344 2920 Julie Greig 0429 344 456
<b>Country Care Link</b>	A confidential family information and support service, operated by the Sisters of Charity Outreach, Darlinghurst, for country NSW.	1800 806 160

## Workforce Skilling

<b>Job Search</b>	Includes services notification, and access to Intensive Support job search training - EC declared areas.	<i>Job Search</i> 13 62 68
<b>Productivity Places Program</b> Free training up to \$3000	Training places allocated to job network enrolled people wanting to gain or upgrade their skills in aged care, or transport and logistics	Community Colleges 02 9642 5622 <a href="http://www.communitycolleges.nsw.edu.au">www.communitycolleges.nsw.edu.au</a>
<b>NSW TAFE "Credit Where Credits Due"</b> Benefit: Cert IV Rural Business Course for \$50	Those who hold an Exceptional Circumstances notification. Farming women get together on a regular basis to build on their existing skills and knowledge base, through a combination of group based study and assessment, and existing competence resulting from their normal business activities.	<i>TAFE</i> 131 601

<b>Drought Force Work for the Dole</b> Youth Allowance plus extra \$20.80 a fortnight & up to \$1,600 training credits	Gives people who lose their job because of the drought the opportunity to work on properties or in the community. People receiving income support who work 30 hours or more a week, do not have to look for work while participating in the program.	<i>Workplace</i> 1800 004 226
<b>Apprenticeship declared drought incentives</b> Up to \$3,000	To encourage primary producers and small businesses to continue skills development through apprenticeships.	<i>Australian Apprenticeships</i> 1800 639 629
<b>PROfarm</b>	Accredited short courses developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries to meet the needs of farmers, primary industries, agribusiness and the community	<i>NSW Department of Primary Industries</i> <i>Northern NSW 1800 025520</i> <i>Southern NSW 1800 628422</i> <a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/profarm">www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/profarm</a>

## Schooling and Education

<b>Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)</b> Up to \$1,000	An additional \$1,000 to the AIC Additional Boarding Allowance, and an ongoing supplementary allowance of \$1,000 for students who receive an AIC Distance Education Allowance.	<i>Centrelink Drought Assistance Hotline</i> 13 23 16 <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
<b>Isolated Children's Parent's Association</b>	ICPA (Aust) is a voluntary national parent body dedicated to ensuring that all geographically isolated students have equality with their non-isolated peers, of access to an appropriate education.	<i>ICPA President David Cameron</i> 6796 5166 <a href="http://www.icpa.com.au">www.icpa.com.au</a>
<b>Additional school funding</b> Up to \$10,000	Additional funding for both government and non-government schools in Exceptional Circumstances declared areas.	<i>Dept. of Education, Employment &amp; Workplace Relations</i> 1300 363 079
<b>Private Vehicle Conveyance Scheme</b>	Where there is no public transport available (mainly in rural areas) parents can apply for a subsidy towards transporting students to school or bus pick up point by private vehicle.	<i>Speak to your school or visit</i> <a href="http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au">www.transport.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Bush Children's Education Fund</b>	The BCEF provides financial assistance to subsidise the boarding expenses of students living in outback NSW.	(02) 9416 4630 <a href="mailto:info@bcef.org.au">info@bcef.org.au</a>
<b>Masonic Youth Welfare Fund</b>	Provides direct financial assistance to students under 25 to complete full time education.	<a href="http://www.nswyouth.com.au">www.nswyouth.com.au</a>

**The business community and various industry bodies have a range of drought-specific assistance measures and grants available also.**

## Acknowledgements

Prepared by Lloyd Kingham, Drought Support Worker, NSW DPI Wagga Wagga.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is general in nature and based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2009). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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