

# New drought support arrangements from 1 July 2014

July 2014

## Support for drought-affected farmers

From 1 July 2014, a range of drought support measures are available to help farmers prepare for and manage the impacts of drought under the [new national drought program](#).

To support the rollout of the national program, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has announced a new [\\$13 million funding package](#).

These measures include:

- **\$1.9 million** to continue the Department of Primary Industries' [Rural Support Worker Program](#)
- **\$2.5 million** to continue the [Country Town Emergency Water Cartage and Infrastructure Scheme](#)
- \$350,000 for additional staff at the [Rural Assistance Authority](#), to support the rollout of the new national program.

This is in addition to ongoing NSW Government drought support, which includes:

- **continuing funding** for the [Farm Innovation Fund](#), to provide farmers with loans at concessional interest rates through the Rural Assistance Authority for in-drought support and drought preparedness
- **\$840,000** for the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to the [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#)
- **\$500,000** for animal welfare cases, focused on stock going to sale or slaughter where there is significant risk to animal welfare.

## Joint national and state support

The NSW Government is working closely with the Commonwealth Government to implement new drought support measures under the [Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform](#).

This new approach includes:

- the new [Farm Household Allowance](#)
- Farm Management Deposits and taxation measures
- a national approach to farm business management training
- a coordinated and collaborative approach to [social support services](#)
- tools and technologies to inform farmer decision making.

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority will also administer \$100 million of the Commonwealth Government's [Drought Concessional Loans Scheme](#) to farmers for debt management and drought works.

An additional \$2.4 million will be directed towards [pest management](#) in drought affected areas.

## Monitoring and reporting of seasonal conditions

The NSW Department of Primary Industries continues to publish a monthly State-wide [Seasonal Conditions Report](#), and Local Land Services will soon publish monthly on-ground regional seasonal conditions reports.

The independent and expert [Regional Assistance Advisory Committee](#) (RAAC) will continue to closely monitor objective rainfall, pasture growth and soil moisture information, as well as on-ground information from Local Land Services.

The RAAC will also continue to monitor ongoing programs and support, and will provide advice and recommendations to the NSW Government as required.

### Expert advice for farmers

Assistance and technical advice on drought management and preparedness, pastures and livestock is available from [Local Land Services](#) and the Department of Primary Industries.

Local Land Services can also refer landholders to appropriate support services.

### More information

- [Rural Assistance Authority](#)
- [Department of Primary Industries](#)
- [Rural Support Workers](#)
- [Rural Financial Counsellors](#)

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