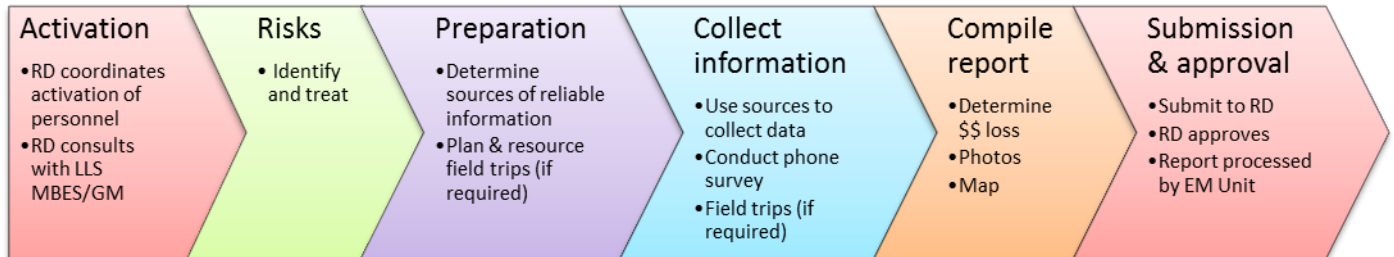


Assessment and reporting of natural disasters

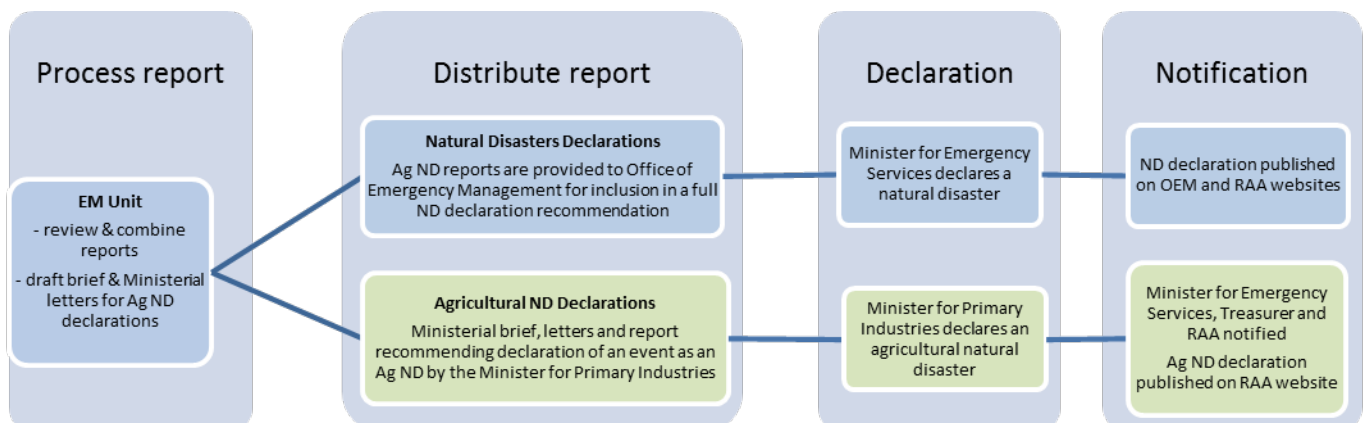
NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) coordinate agricultural natural disaster damage and impact assessments to support Agricultural Natural Disaster (Ag ND) declarations or Natural Disaster (ND) declarations in accordance with the policy [Emergency Management – Disaster Assessment and Declaration](#).

Conducting and reporting on agricultural natural disaster assessments



Activation	Risks	Preparation	Collect information	Compile report	Submission & approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triggers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage caused is likely to be in excess of \$240,000 When requested by producers Request by Department of Justice (to support a Natural Disaster declaration) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety & well being of workers & impacted personnel Permission to access area of impact Security or resources & data Privacy of landholders Conflict of interest for workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible sources of information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacts in local phone directories/ stakeholder lists Industry & dept contacts BioMap, Google maps Aerial surveys Combat agency Landholders photos & reports Social media Property visits Financial estimates eg local farm suppliers, reports in The Land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use sources to complete form (details on pg 2) Conduct phone survey Conduct field trips if necessary to confirm details - <i>permission to access impact area required</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Ag ND Assessment form, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> estimated financial loss labelled photos clear, accurate map(s) of affected area (details pg 2) If required by size of event, also include an attached report with detailed impact information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessor submits completed report to the RD RD reviews & approves or requests further information Approved report to EM Unit within 1-4 weeks of event depending on size of event

Declaration process



Completing the [Agricultural Natural Disaster Assessment form](#)

An estimate of the extent of the damage and financial loss, which is based on facts and expert opinion, is satisfactory for the purposes of the assessment.

Item	Description of possible inclusions
Incident date(s)	Date(s) that the incident occurred. Each report contains only 1 incident.
Location	Provide a description of the location affected including parish and Local Government Area (LGA). Boundaries of the area to be declared should be described as accurately as possible for smaller areas using roads or rivers. Attach a map of the area to the report.
Incident description	Describe the event as much as possible eg hailstorm, wind event, flooding, dust-storm with descriptions such as hail size, duration, rainfall figures etc.
Number & type of holdings affected	Indicate/estimate the number of holdings (eg properties or leases for aquaculture) affected.
Size of area affected	Indicate the total area affected in hectares, or number of LGAs affected. The area affected needs to be defined for declaration purposes.
Maps	Maps must be detailed, clear, accurate, and labelled with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location – parishes or LGAs (depending on the extent) • Main roads • Towns • Extent of impact
Animals – type/numbers	Animals relates to any animals affected by the disaster eg sheep, cattle, pigs, bees, farmed or wild fish, oysters in registered leases. Note: Include feral and native animals in the report without a financial value as there may be costs in the recovery phase.
Hectares & type of crop, pasture, trees, vegetables	Total area and type of plants affected eg specific types of fruit, vegetable or cereal/oilseed. Including damaged vs destroyed. Trees description to include purpose (eg commercial, orchard, windbreak, erosion protection), type, number & age. Include pasture only once either as a loss or as cost to re-sow pasture or as a fodder/feed.
Fodder / feed	Lost or damaged hay, silage, grain or other feed for animals. Do not include pasture (as a feed) if already accounted for in item above.
Infrastructure	May include sheds; houses; internal roads, bridges & crossings; water points; irrigation equipment; pumps; trellises; netting; support structures for aquaculture; beehives; damage to dams; erosion control. Note: Fencing is a separate item. Infrastructure can be divided on the assessment form for ease of reporting.
Fencing	Indicate types (eg boundary, electric) and length (kilometres) of fencing destroyed or damaged. Total fence replacement (remove/replace) value varies with fence type.
Production loss	Uncollectable milk, bruised fruit, flowers knocked off plants, product contamination, significant impact on product quality.
Other	Anything not listed above, eg veterinary services
Estimation of total financial loss	Add up the estimated total loss by market value of stock and crop/horticulture.
Photos	Insert labelled photos into an attached report.
Need for assistance	In discussion with affected landholders, describe what assistance is likely to be sought. This may include replacement of infrastructure, a need to send stock away, purchase fodder, or possible animal welfare issues that may arise. Note: Replacement of water removed for firefighting purposes is assessed separately to natural disaster assessments.
Assessing Officer details	Provide name and contact details of the assessor(s), the date(s) of the assessment(s) and the date the report was completed.

Abbreviations

EM Unit – Emergency Management Unit
GM – LLS General Manager
MBES – LLS Manager Biosecurity & Emergency Services

OEM – Office of Emergency Management
RAA – Rural Assistance Authority
RD – DPI Regional Director