

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](#).

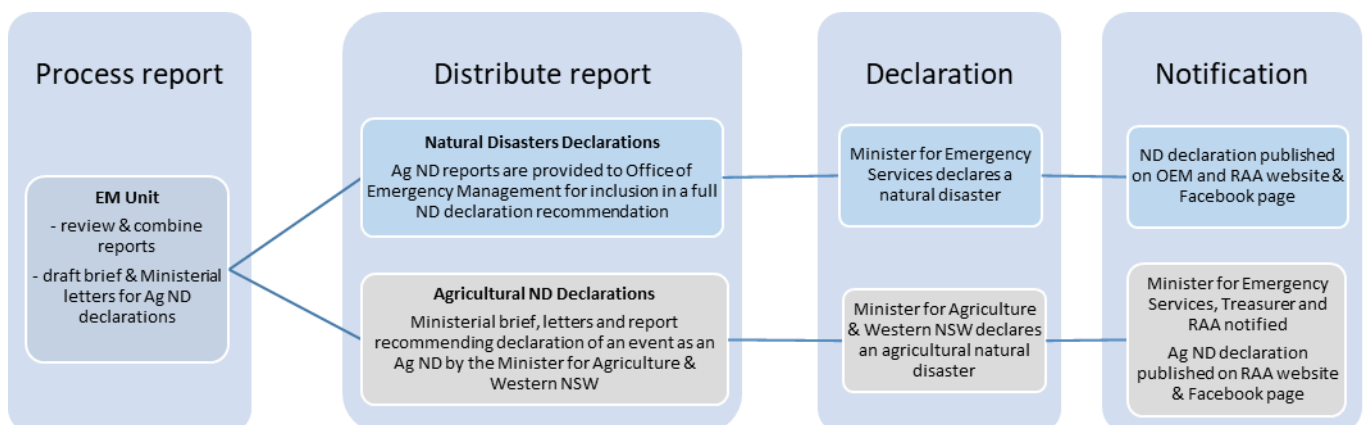
Conducting and reporting on agricultural natural disaster assessments

All damage should be collected using the online survey. Refer to Primary industries damage assessment app instructions for staff detailing app and dashboard use.

Stage	Information
<p>A. Activation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RAASFAC and/or LLS EM Coordinator appoint a Damage Assessment Coordinator and activate supporting personnel as required. 2. Notify emergency.operations@dpi.nsw.gov.au an assessment is likely and request a code the survey 	<p>Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage caused is likely to be in excess of \$240,000 (local knowledge or dashboard indicators) • When requested by producers • Request by Office of Emergency Management or another government agency (to support a natural disaster declaration)
<p>B. Identify and treat risk</p>	<p>When determining if an impact assessment is appropriate consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and wellbeing of workers and impacted personnel • Permission to access area of impact • Security or resources and data • Privacy and mental state of landholders • Conflict of interest for workers
<p>C. Prepare to collect information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review survey data 2. Determine further sources of reliable information if required 3. Plan & resource field trips if required 	<p>From the dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If available, determine the number and location of visits or phone calls to audit data if necessary <p>Other possible sources of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder/landholder contact lists for the likely affected area • Contacts in industry associations and DPIE • Biomap • Aerial surveys • Combat agency • Landholders photos and reports • Social media • Property visits • Response data
<p>D. Collect information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote survey link 2. Collect information 3. Field trips where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the survey link to encourage landholders to complete survey without assistance. • If DPI/LLS personnel, use DPI/LLS code provided by Damage Assessment Coordinator to enter damage assessments per property • Enter data on behalf of farmers if required (counts as verified)

Stage	Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the edges of the event with damage assessments. • Data should be justifiable estimates - exactness is not required unless thresholds are approached • Audit 33% of random properties and/or properties indicating large, suspicious or unusual data • If visiting properties, permission to access impact area is required
<p>E. Finalise & submit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Damage Assessment Coordinator confirms finalisation of collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the Damage Assessment Coordinator is satisfied with the quantity and quality of reports, email emergency.operations@dpi.nsw.gov.au and the RAASFAC and LLS EM Coordinator indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The event name, type, date and locality ○ A short descriptor of the event ○ A short summary of the damage ○ Boundaries of affected area ○ Any complicating factors ○ That the data gathered is satisfactory for the event to be finalised ready for submission, representative of the damage that has occurred, and is justifiable within reason. • For Category C events, further detail may be requested. Email should also include future impacts • Local or regional EOC's may request agricultural information - this may be provided by the dashboard but is often collated for submission directly to OEM by the DPI Emergency Management Unit.

Declaration process



After the declaration, the EM Unit will notify the RAA, RAASFAC, LLS EM Coordinator, DPI Communications that the Agricultural ND has been approved by the Minister. This notification is for internal information only. The public is notified after the declaration is published on the RAA website.

Where grants are considered, a Primary Industries Damage Assessment is submitted to OEM who submits a community application to Emergency Management Australia. Any declaration is announced by the Federal Minister for Natural Disasters and Emergency Management.

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

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
Enter your name	Enter the name of the person filling in the survey
Are you an assessing officer?	Select yes if the person filling in the survey is a DPI, LLS or Industry representative who is providing verified data. Select no if the person is a farmer or simply entering data on behalf on someone else.
Enter code	This field only appears if yes is selected above. DPI and LLS staff and Industry representatives will be given a code which must be used. Email emergency.operations@dpi.nsw.gov.au or the Damage Assessment Coordinator to obtain a code. Farmers don't require a code.
Event type	Select the type of event you are reporting on. If selecting other, indicate the event type.
When did the event occur?	Date that the incident occurred - if over multiple days, enter the first date it happened. Each report contains only 1 incident.
Location of property	Select the location of the damage on the map. This is an important step if you are not at the damage site as the app will default to record your current location e.g. in town
Area of property	Enter the total area in hectares of the affected property if applicable e.g. fisheries may ignore this section.
PIC	Providing a PIC allows us to locate the relevant property and contact the owner directly if we need to confirm or clarify data. This section is not compulsory if a PIC is not available.
Damage	Select yes or no. If selecting no, submit the report without further action.
Which of the following had damage?	Select all the categories in which your farm has received damage. This will open further questions under each section. You can return here at any time to add categories but it is simpler to select them at the start.
Sector categories	Follow the prompts to answer any questions that are relevant. Fill in numbers, areas and values - estimates based on facts are satisfactory. Use metric numbers i.e. hectares not acres etc. If the enterprise or damage type is not covered, use the "other" category to enter the enterprise, how many or how much is destroyed and an estimate of what it is worth. If particularly valuable animals or infrastructure are lost e.g. racehorses, enter them in the "other" category as the survey uses average long term data to calculate impact.
How long will the property take to recover to normal production levels?	Estimate how long it will take to return to normal production e.g. how long before normal farming operations can commence.
Estimated % loss of total annual value of production?	Estimate the percentage of impact on your annual business income.
Estimation of total financial loss	Add up the estimated total loss by market value of stock and crop/horticulture.
Photos	Click on the camera icon to take a photo or to upload a photo from your files.
Feedback and comments	Provide feedback if you encounter issues. Comment if there is anything further to add e.g. long term impacts.
Submit	Review the data. The report cannot be edited once submitted.
Link to summary map	Follow a link to see a summary of the reports in the state. Filter by event and date to see all the reports for a particular event. Individual data is not visible.

Abbreviations

EM Unit – Emergency Management Unit
GM – LLS General Manager
RAASFAC – Regional AASFA Coordinator

OEM – Office of Emergency Management
RAA – Rural Assistance Authority