

# Drought and dry seasonal conditions support programs

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

MARCH, 2019

The Victorian Government provides ongoing support to farmers and communities in Victoria.

In 2019, the Victorian Government announced further support measures to assist farmers and communities to prepare and respond to drought and dry seasonal conditions in Central and East Gippsland and Northern and North West Victoria.

Regional Drought and Dry Seasonal Conditions Coordinators are working in the three areas to help co-ordinate assistance at a local level across government and other agencies.

For more information contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or visit [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

<p><b>Technical and decision-making support for farm businesses</b></p>	<p>Agriculture Victoria delivers increased communication, technical and decision-making support services to assist farm businesses manage dry seasonal conditions.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria has technical information and tools on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock Containment Areas</li> <li>• Feeding and managing beef and sheep during dry seasonal conditions, and</li> <li>• Resources to support climate change risk management.</li> </ul> <p>Available across Central and East Gippsland, Northern and North-West Victoria.</p>	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a></p>
<p><b>Refocused Plan 2 Farm Program</b></p>	<p>Plan2Farm provides one-on-one support from Agriculture Victoria or Murray Dairy to assist farmers make informed decisions about their farming future.</p> <p>The program is flexible and includes managing seasonal conditions, optimising investment, farm productivity, irrigation decisions and succession planning.</p>	<p>North Central Catchment Management Authority: <a href="http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/">www.nccma.vic.gov.au/</a> Phone: (03) 5448 7124</p>

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

<p><b>On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants</b></p>	<p>Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) are available to eligible farm businesses. Eligible businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution.</p> <p>The grants program will assist farm businesses implement on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme</b></p>	<p>The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is available to assist farmers impacted by drought and dry seasonal conditions invest in urgently-needed on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs.</p> <p>The rebate funding is being made available by the Australian Government.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Farm Support Fund</b></p>	<p>The Farm Support Fund will provide discretionary support for eligible farm businesses in Northern and North West Victoria that are experiencing significant financial pressure. The program will provide immediate financial relief and alleviate some cost-of-living pressures for specific farm businesses not eligible for the Farm Business Assistance program. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The program will provide payments/vouchers up to \$2,500 to eligible farm businesses depending on circumstances.</p>	<p>For more information contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or register your interest in this program by emailing: <a href="mailto:Drought.Support@ecodev.vic.gov.au">Drought.Support@ecodev.vic.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>Farm Business Assistance Program</b></p>	<p>The Farm Business Assistance program provides support payments for farm businesses that are experiencing significant financial pressure because of prolonged dry conditions and industry downturn.</p> <p>This support payment will allow farm businesses to best determine how to use the funding, for example – the payment of municipal rates, household spending, on-farm improvements or business costs.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">ruralfinance.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Small Business Financial Counselling</b></p>	<p>A Small Business Financial Counsellor is available to provide free financial counselling to non-agricultural small businesses impacted by drought. This service is available in Central and East Gippsland.</p>	<p>Call Eastern RFCS on 1300 045 747</p>

# Drought and dry seasonal conditions support programs

<b>Small Business workshops and bus</b>	Small business workshops and mobile mentor services are available to support small businesses in Central and East Gippsland.	Call Small Business Victoria on 13 22 15
<b>Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)</b>	RFCS provide free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors can provide referrals to other professional services, including accountants, agricultural advisors, education, or counselling. Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance, concessional loans and other support.	Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western RFCS: 1300 735 578</li> <li>Eastern RFCS: 1300 045 747</li> <li>North East RFCS: 1300 834 775</li> <li>North West RFCS: 1300 769 489</li> </ul> or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance">www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance</a>
<b>Farm Household Allowance (Aust Govt)^</b>	The Australian Government makes an income support payment available to eligible farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.	Call 132 316 or visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a>
<b>Farmer Assistance Hotline (Aust Govt)</b>	Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities.	Call 132 316 or visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a>
<b>Farm Debt Mediation</b>	The scheme makes it compulsory for banks and other creditors to offer mediation to farmers before commencing debt recovery proceedings on farm mortgages.	Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au">farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) Farm Business Concessional Loans (Aust Govt)^</b>	The RIC offers two loan products for eligible farm businesses in Victoria: Drought Loans and Farm Investment Loans. Farmers applying for the farm business concessional loans will need to contact the RIC.	Call 1800 875 675 or visit <a href="http://www.ric.gov.au">www.ric.gov.au</a>

*^Eligibility criteria and loan amounts have recently changed.*

## PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT

<b>Back to School Support</b>	Back to School support helps families with the cost of uniforms, shoes and other items for students in government schools in Wellington and East Gippsland shires.	Contact your child's school
<b>Camps, Sports and Excursion fund</b>	The Camps, Sports and Excursion fund is available to ensure students in drought affected areas participate in learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Available to all students in Central and East Gippsland.	Contact your child's school
<b>Kindergarten Support</b>	The Drought Kindergarten Fee Subsidy provides support for all children in the year before school attending kindergarten in drought affected areas, and all children who live in drought affected areas that attend the year before school kindergarten in other areas. Available in Central and East Gippsland.	Contact the Department of Education and Training at: <a href="mailto:kindergarten.funding@edumail.vic.gov.au">kindergarten.funding@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Look Over the Farm Gate Program</b>	This program promotes a message that it is important to look after the well-being of yourself and those around you. It encourages everyone to 'look over their farm gate' and check on their neighbours and friends. The program provides funding for community events and activities in Central and East Gippsland and Northern and North West Victoria. Training and presentations on wellbeing, dealing with on-farm stress and other issues are also available. It also provides promotional and support material for distribution.	Call the Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 882 833 or visit <a href="http://www.lookoverthefarmgate.org.au">www.lookoverthefarmgate.org.au</a>
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	The new Mental Health Support package includes additional counselling and co-ordination, psychological first aid training and Lifeline Gippsland (telephone counselling and mentoring program). Available in Central and East Gippsland and Northern and North West Victoria.	If you need immediate assistance with your mental health and wellbeing, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 For emergency assistance, call 000
<b>National Centre for Farmer Health</b>	The NCFH provides ongoing leadership to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers, their families and communities across Victoria. Programs include Agrisafe workshops, Health and Lifestyle assessments and community presentations on health and wellbeing. Available in Central and East Gippsland and Northern and North West Victoria.	Call the National Centre for Farmer Health on (03) 5551 8533 or visit <a href="http://www.farmerhealth.org.au">www.farmerhealth.org.au</a>

## REGIONAL SUPPORT

# Drought and dry seasonal conditions support programs

<b>Managing wildlife</b>	The Authority to Control Wildlife program supports the control of wildlife through increased state-wide processing resources under the Authority To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system.	Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186
<b>Emergency Water Supply Point (EWSP) improvement program</b>	A new initiative to improve access to EWSPs across areas where there is a high incidence of water carting. This program will provide additional access to emergency water supply points for both stock and domestic purposes.	Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points">www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points</a>
<b>Catchment Management Authorities Drought Employment Program</b>	Farmers, farm workers and individuals affected by drought in East Gippsland and Wellington shires may apply for off-farm employment and training opportunities through the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA), West Gippsland CMA, and North East CMA.	Call East Gippsland CMA Reception on (03) 5152 0600 or email <a href="mailto:egcma@egcma.com.au">egcma@egcma.com.au</a>
<b>Community Resilience Program</b>	East Gippsland and Wellington Shires will receive funding to support community events that bring communities together, build resilience and raise awareness of drought support services.	Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186

## ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on 136 186.

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March 2019

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For more information about Agriculture Victoria go to [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au) or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

# Drought Conditions

## Support in Central and East Gippsland

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

MARCH 2019

TECHNICAL SUPPORT		
<b>Technical and decision-making support for farm businesses</b>	Additional services to be delivered by Agriculture Victoria and associated industry partners that will provide increased technical support to assist farm businesses manage dry seasonal conditions.	For upcoming farmer workshops, dry season preparedness information visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a> or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information
<b>One-on-one consultation sessions</b>	<p>Agriculture Victoria is continuing to provide Central and East Gippsland producers with the opportunity to engage in one-on-one consultation sessions to assist them to manage current seasonal conditions and access support services.</p> <p>These consultations cover a range of topics including feed budgeting, feed rations, partial budgets, hay and crop decision making, water use and resource management, in addition to signposting other services such as Rural Financial Counsellors, Farm Household Allowance and concessional loans programs.</p> <p>For dairy farmers, Agriculture Victoria is providing this service in collaboration with GippsDairy.</p>	<p>For information contact Agriculture Victoria:</p> <p><b>Livestock:</b> Darren Hickey, Bairnsdale (03) 5152 0496</p> <p><b>Dairy:</b> Maria Rose Maffra (03) 5147 0843 or David Shambrook Leongatha (03) 5662 9999.</p> <p><b>Irrigation</b> Janice Dowe, Maffra (03) 5147 0854</p>
<b>Stock Containment Areas</b>	Agriculture Victoria has developed a package of resources to support farmers in designing stock containment areas. Stock containment areas are a valuable tool to manage livestock and to protect soil and pasture resources during adverse seasonal conditions.	For dry season preparedness information visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a> or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information
<b>Feeding Beef and Sheep</b>	Agriculture Victoria has developed booklets on feeding and managing beef and sheep during dry seasonal conditions.	
<b>Weather and Climate</b>	Information, tools and resources to support climate change risk management within the Victorian agricultural sector.	

REGIONAL SUPPORT		
<b>Managing wildlife</b>	The Drought Relief Authority to Control Wildlife program supports the control of wildlife through increased state-wide processing resources under the Authority To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system.	Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186
<b>Emergency Water Supply Point (EWSP) improvement program</b>	A new initiative to improve access to EWSPs across areas where there is a high incidence of water carting. This program will provide additional access to emergency water supply points for both stock and domestic purposes.	Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points">www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points</a>
<b>Catchment Management Authorities Drought Employment Program</b>	A program managed by East and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to provide off-farm employment and training to farmers, farm workers and individuals affected by drought.	Call East Gippsland CMA Reception on (03) 5152 0600 or <a href="mailto:egcma@egcma.com.au">egcma@egcma.com.au</a>
<b>Regional Drought Coordinator</b>	The coordinator acts as a key point of co-ordination at the local level, providing information on drought services, support options, emerging risks and pressures in their region.	Call Prue McTaggart, Agriculture Victoria, Bairnsdale, (03) 5152 0600
<b>Community Resilience Program</b>	East Gippsland and Wellington Shires are eligible to receive funding to support community events that bring communities together, build resilience and raise awareness of drought support services. Other small infrastructure projects such as improvements to community hubs, halls and precincts will also be considered.	<p>East Gippsland Shire Council, visit <a href="http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au">www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au</a></p> <p>For community grants contact Kathryn Macdonald on (03) 5153 9500 or <a href="mailto:kathrynm@egipps.vic.gov.au">kathrynm@egipps.vic.gov.au</a></p>

# Drought Conditions – Support in Central and East Gippsland

## PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT

<b>Back to School Support</b>	Back to School support aims to help families with the cost of uniforms, shoes and other items for families in Central and East Gippsland government schools.	Contact your child's school.
<b>Camps, Sports and Excursion fund</b>	The Camps, Sports and Excursion fund extends payment to include all students from drought affected areas (that do not hold a means-tested concession card) from Term 1 2019 to ensure students in drought affected areas participate in the learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom.	Contact your child's school.
<b>Kindergarten Support</b>	<p>The Drought Kindergarten Fee Subsidy provides support for all children in the year before school attending kindergarten in drought affected areas, and all children who live in drought affected areas that attend the year before school kindergarten in other areas.</p> <p>Kindergarten services will receive the subsidy on behalf of families through normal kindergarten funding processes.</p> <p>Kindergartens can also apply for a one-off grant to support their continued operation. All community-based kindergarten providers in Central and East Gippsland will be invited to apply for the financial hardship grant by the Department of Education and Training in early 2019.</p>	Contact the Department of Education and Training at: <a href="mailto:kindergarten.funding@edumail.vic.gov.au">kindergarten.funding@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	<p>The new Mental Health Support package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional counselling and co-ordination</li> <li>• Psychological first aid training</li> <li>• Lifeline Gippsland (telephone counselling and mentoring program)</li> </ul>	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186.</p> <p>If you need immediate assistance with your mental health and wellbeing, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14</p> <p>If you need emergency assistance, contact 000.</p>
<b>National Centre for Farmer Health</b>	<p>The NCFH provides leadership to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers, their families and communities.</p> <p>This program includes the delivery of health checks to farmers dealing with on-farm stress. Additional programs have been funded and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrisafe Drought Service</li> <li>• Health and Lifestyle assessments</li> <li>• Community presentations</li> <li>• Interactive workshops</li> <li>• Service Co-ordinator</li> </ul>	Call the National Centre for Farmer Health on (03) 5551 8533 or visit <a href="http://farmerhealth.org.au">farmerhealth.org.au</a>
<b>Look Over the Farm Gate Program</b>	Look Over the Farm Gate will deliver health and wellbeing support for farmers and communities through community awareness and social and emotional wellbeing workshops and events.	Call 1300 882 833 or visit <a href="https://lookoverthefarmgate.org.au">https://lookoverthefarmgate.org.au</a>
<b>MensLine Australia</b>	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78 or visit <a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a>
<b>Kids Help Line</b>	24/7 telephone and online counselling service for people aged 5 - 25.	Call 1800 55 1800 or visit <a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au">kidshelpline.com.au</a>
<b>Family Relationship Service</b>	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 or visit <a href="http://familyrelationships.gov.au">familyrelationships.gov.au</a>
<b>Victorian Better Health Channel</b>	Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date and easy to understand.	Visit <a href="http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au">betterhealth.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Beyondblue</b>	24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.	Call 1300 224 636 or visit <a href="http://beyondblue.org.au">beyondblue.org.au</a>
<b>Lifeline</b>	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.	Call 131 114 or visit <a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a>

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

<b>On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants</b>	<p>Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) are available to eligible farm businesses in Central and East Gippsland. Eligible farm businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution.</p> <p>The grants program will assist farm businesses implement on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness.</p>	Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/">https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/</a>
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# Drought Conditions – Support in Central and East Gippsland

<b>On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme</b>	The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is available to assist farmers impacted by drought and dry seasonal conditions invest in urgently-needed on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs.  The rebate funding is being made available by the Australian Government.	Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a>
<b>Farm Business Assistance Program</b>	The Farm Business Assistance program provides a one-off support payment to farm businesses in Wellington Shire and East Gippsland Shire and eligible dairy farmers in Northern and North-West Victoria.	Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://ruralfinance.com.au">ruralfinance.com.au</a>
<b>Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)</b>	Additional funding to support the RFCS provide free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance.	Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call Eastern RFCS: 1300 045 747 or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service">www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service</a>
<b>Farm Household Allowance (Aust Govt)^</b>	The Australian Government makes an income support payment available to eligible farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.	Call 132 316 or visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a>
<b>Farmer Assistance Hotline (Aust Govt)</b>	Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities.	Call 132 316 or visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a>
<b>Farm Debt Mediation</b>	The scheme makes it compulsory for banks and other creditors to offer mediation to farmers before commencing debt recovery proceedings on farm mortgages.	Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation</a> Email: <a href="mailto:farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au">farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Regional Investment Corporation Farm Business Concessional Loans (Aust Govt)^</b>	From 1 July 2018, farmers will need to apply to the RIC for the Australian Government's farm business concessional loans. The RIC will offer two loan products for eligible farm businesses: Drought Loans and Farm Investment Loans	Call 1800 875 675 or visit <a href="http://www.ric.gov.au/">www.ric.gov.au/</a>

*^Eligibility criteria and loan amounts have recently changed.*

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# Dry Seasonal Conditions Support in Northern and North West Victoria

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

MARCH 2019

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

<b>Refocused Plan2Farm Program</b>	Delivered in partnership across the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and coordinated by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, this program assists and supports farmers in making informed decisions about their farming future. The program includes managing current seasonal conditions, optimising investment, farm productivity, irrigation decisions and succession planning. Plan2Farm involves one-on-one support from either an Agriculture Victoria or Murray Dairy staff member and may include the services of a consultant.	To register contact North Central Catchment Management Authority: <a href="http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/">http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/</a> Phone: (03) 5448 7124  For information contact Agriculture Victoria, Matt Hawken on 0418 143 922 or (03) 5450 9528
<b>Technical and decision-making support for farm businesses</b>	Additional services to be delivered by Agriculture Victoria and associated industry partners that will provide increased technical support to assist farm businesses manage dry seasonal conditions.	For upcoming farmer workshops, dry season preparedness information visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a> or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information
<b>One-on-one consultation sessions (Dairy)</b>	Agriculture Victoria will provide a one-to-one service in collaboration with Dairy Australia to provide Victorian dairy farmers with support and a broad suite of information tailored to their individual needs, including but not limited to feed budgeting, feed rations, partial budgets, hay and crop decision making, water use and resource management.	For information contact Agriculture Victoria, Brett Davidson, Tatura, (03) 5833 5206
<b>Stock Containment Areas</b>	Agriculture Victoria has developed a package of resources to support farmers in designing stock containment areas. Stock containment areas are a valuable tool to manage livestock and to protect soil and pasture resources during adverse seasonal conditions.	For dry season preparedness information visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a> or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information
<b>Feeding Beef and Sheep</b>	Agriculture Victoria has developed booklets on feeding and managing beef and sheep during dry seasonal conditions.	
<b>Weather and Climate</b>	Information, tools and resources to support climate change risk management within the Victorian agricultural sector.	

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<b>Emergency Water Supply Point (EWSP) improvement program</b>	A new initiative to improve access to EWSPs across areas where there is a high incidence of water carting. This program will provide additional access to emergency water supply points for both stock and domestic purposes.	Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points">www.water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points</a>
<b>Managing wildlife</b>	The Authority to Control Wildlife program supports the control of wildlife through increased state-wide processing resources under the Authority To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permit system.	Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186
<b>Catchment Management Authorities Drought Employment Program</b>	An initiative targeting parts of North East Catchment Management Authority to provide off-farm employment and training will be provided to farmers, farm workers and individuals affected by drought.	Call East Gippsland CMA Reception on (03) 5152 0600 or <a href="mailto:egcma@egcma.com.au">egcma@egcma.com.au</a>
<b>Regional Dry Seasonal Conditions Coordinator</b>	The coordinator will act as a key point of co-ordination at the local level, providing information on drought services, support options, emerging risks and pressures in their region.	<b>Northern Victoria</b> Bianca Stapleton, Agriculture Victoria, Echuca (03) 5482 1922  <b>North West Victoria</b> Robert O'Shannessy, Agriculture Victoria, Horsham (03) 5362 2111

# Dry Seasonal Conditions - Support in Northern and North West Victoria

FINANCIAL SUPPORT		
<b>On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants</b>	<p>Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) are available to eligible farm businesses in Northern and North West Victoria. Eligible farm businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution.</p> <p>The grants program will assist farm businesses implement on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/">https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/</a></p>
<b>On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme</b>	<p>The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is now available to assist farmers impacted by drought and dry seasonal conditions invest in urgently-needed on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs.</p> <p>The rebate funding is being made available by the Australian Government.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a></p>
<b>Farm Support Fund</b>	<p>The Farm Support Fund will provide discretionary support for eligible farm businesses in Northern and North West Victoria that are experiencing significant financial pressure. The program will provide immediate financial relief and alleviate some cost-of-living pressures for specific farm businesses not eligible for the Farm Business Assistance program. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>The program will provide payments/vouchers up to \$2,500 to eligible farm businesses depending on circumstances.</p>	<p>For more information contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or register your interest in this program by emailing: <a href="mailto:Drought.Support@ecodev.vic.gov.au">Drought.Support@ecodev.vic.gov.au</a></p>
<b>Farm Business Assistance Program</b>	<p>The Farm Business Assistance program provides a one-off support payment to farm businesses in Wellington Shire and East Gippsland Shire and eligible dairy farmers in Northern and North-West Victoria.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a></p>
<b>Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)</b>	<p>Additional funding to support the RFCS provide free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance (FHA).</p>	<p>Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North East RFCS: 1300 834 775</li> <li>• North West RFCS: 1300 769 489</li> <li>• Western RFCS: 1300 735 578</li> </ul> <p>or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service">www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service</a></p>
<b>Farm Household Allowance (Aust Govt)^</b>	<p>The Australian Government makes an income support payment available to eligible farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.</p>	<p>Call 132 316 or visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a></p>
<b>Farmer Assistance Hotline (Aust Govt)</b>	<p>Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities.</p>	<p>Call 132 316 or visit <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a></p>
<b>Farm Debt Mediation</b>	<p>The scheme makes it compulsory for banks and other creditors to offer mediation to farmers before commencing debt recovery proceedings on farm mortgages.</p>	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation</a> Email: <a href="mailto:farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au">farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au</a></p>
<b>Regional Investment Corporation Farm Business Concessional Loans (Aust Govt)^</b>	<p>The Australian Government has established the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC). From 1 July 2018, farmers need to apply to the RIC for the Australian Government's farm business concessional loans. The RIC offers two loan products for eligible farm businesses in Victoria: Drought Loans and Farm Investment Loans.</p>	<p>Call 1800 875 675 or visit <a href="http://ric.gov.au/">ric.gov.au/</a></p>

*^Eligibility criteria and loan amounts have recently changed.*



# Dry Seasonal Conditions - Support in Northern and North West Victoria

## PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT

<b>Mental Health Support</b>	The Mental Health Support package includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional counselling and co-ordination</li> <li>• Psychological first aid training</li> </ul>	Call the Agriculture Victoria Line on 136 186.  If you need immediate assistance with your mental health and wellbeing, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.  If you need emergency assistance, call 000.
<b>National Centre for Farmer Health</b>	The NCFH provides ongoing leadership to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers, their families and communities across Victoria. Additional programs have been funded and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrisafe Drought Service</li> <li>• Health and Lifestyle assessments</li> <li>• Community presentations</li> <li>• Interactive workshops</li> <li>• Service Co-ordinator</li> </ul>	Call the National Centre for Farmer Health on (03) 5551 8533 or visit <a href="http://farmerhealth.org.au">farmerhealth.org.au</a>
<b>Look Over the Farm Gate Program</b>	Look Over the Farm Gate will deliver health and wellbeing support for farmers and communities through community awareness and social and emotional wellbeing workshops and events.	Call 1300 882 833 or visit <a href="https://lookoverthefarmgate.org.au">https://lookoverthefarmgate.org.au</a>
<b>MensLine Australia</b>	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78 or visit <a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a>
<b>Kids Help Line</b>	24/7 telephone and online counselling service for people aged 5 - 25.	Call 1800 55 1800 or visit <a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au">kidshelpline.com.au</a>
<b>Family Relationship Service</b>	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 or visit <a href="http://familyrelationships.gov.au">familyrelationships.gov.au</a>
<b>Victorian Better Health Channel</b>	Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date and easy to understand.	Visit <a href="http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au">betterhealth.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Beyondblue</b>	24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.	Call 1300 224 636 or visit <a href="http://beyondblue.org.au">beyondblue.org.au</a>
<b>Lifeline</b>	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.	Call 131 114 or visit <a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a>

## ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on 136 186.

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For more information about Agriculture Victoria go to [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au) or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.