

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

TRANSPORT SUBSIDY	ANIMAL WELFARE TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE	DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This subsidy covers 50% of the transport costs associated with transporting stock to and from agistment, stock to sale or slaughter, transport of water and transport of fodder for stock. • Will be back dated to 1st January 2018 • Can claim up to \$30,000 per eligible farm business over 18months from 1st January 2018 to 30th June 2019 • You must be able to demonstrate that you are the owner of a farm business in NSW, business is impacted by the drought, business is registered with ATO and have an ABN. Business must earn more than 50% of their gross income from the farm under normal seasonal circumstances. • Payments will be made upon receipt of eligible tax invoices. • You need to submit your most recent Local Land Service rate notice and Shire rate notice • The subsidy applies up to a maximum of 1500kms and up to \$5/km • If you are an owner driver you can claim per kilometre. Rates are based upon the size of the vehicle (Gross Vehicle Mass) <p>For further information contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor on 1800 940 404 or visit the RAA website https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-transport-subsidies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a subsidy for the transport of livestock that have little or no feed/water available, where your enterprise is in significant financial need, animals are at significant risk in terms of animal welfare and the animals are leaving the property permanently. • The rebate is up to 50% for the transportation costs and you can claim up to \$20,000 per financial year per farm enterprise • You can apply for this subsidy if you are in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance or an eligible client of the Rural Financial Counselling Service. • The animals must be a fat score of 2 or below. • Claims for this rebate must be submitted no later than 6 months after the stock movement. • You must complete an application and provide invoices for proof of movement. • You need to supply copies of LGA and LLS rate notices • If you are an owner carrier you must supply a copy of vehicle registration papers and log book entries • If this assistance is used in conjunction with the TRANSPORT SUBSIDY up to \$50,000 may be available <p>For further information contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor 1800 940 404 or visit the RAA website https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/rebate-on-road-transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an interest free loan of up to \$50,000. The loan term is for 7 years with the first 2 years repayment free. There are no ongoing fees or charges. You have the choice of monthly, half yearly or annually repayments. • You need to submit an application form and the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Copy of most recent Shire rates notices ○ Copy of most recent Local Land Service rates notice ○ Most recent Individual Tax Returns ○ Most recent Partnership/Business Tax Returns ○ Financial Reports ○ Monthly cash flow budget for the next 12 months • This loan can be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport of livestock, fodder and/or water ○ Water infrastructure such as new/upgrading of stock and domestic water, desilting dams, bores, tanks and troughs ○ Fodder infrastructure such as haysheds and silos ○ Banking of genetic material <p>For further information contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor on 1800 940 404 or visit the RAA website https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/drought-assistance-fund</p>

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FARM HOUSEHOLD ALLOWANCE	DROUGHT LOANS	FARM INNOVATION FUND
<p>The Farm Household Allowance is offered by Centrelink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is to help the household by putting food on the table and other household expenses. • You can be in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for a maximum of 4 years and can cease when you need to. • To be eligible you need to be a farmer and in financial hardship. • It was announced on 5th August 2018 that the scheme will provide 2 lump sum payments worth up to \$12,000 per household. These payments will be made from 1st Sept 2018 and from 1st March 2019. • Your assets need to be less than \$5 million and off farm assets less than \$387,500 couple combined and net. • The amount you receive each fortnight depends on details in your application. • Up to \$80k off farm income can be offset against interest paid. • Applications can be lodged if farm and off-farm assets are above the cut-off amounts of \$5 million and \$387,500 respectively under an asset hardship clause. Complete additional available form and must qualify under Social Security Laws. • One of the conditions of being on FHA is being involved in a Financial Improvement Agreement, that involves activities designed to improve the financial position of your enterprise. • This Allowance is an ongoing program. <p>For further information contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor on 1800 940 404 or visit DHS via below link https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/forms/su694</p>	<p>Drought Loans of up to \$2 million are available from <i>Regional Investment Corporation</i>. This scheme commenced with RIC on 1st July 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are available at a concessional variable rate of 3.58%. • The first 5 yrs are interest only repayments then principal and interest for the remainder of the 10 year term. After 10 years the balance must be repaid or refinanced with a commercial lender. • Farmers with existing government loans will be able to refinance to take advantage of the interest-only concessional period. • Loans can be used to refinance existing debt (up to 50% of bank debt) or borrow additional funds for operating expenses, capital expenses or purchasing feed and fodder. 50% of total debt must remain with a commercial lender. • You must include with your application a 12 month cash flow budget. <p>For further information contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor on 1800 940 404 or Regional Investment Corporation on 1800 875 675 or online via website</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.ric.gov.au</p>	<p>This loan is for farm infrastructure improvements that will benefit your farm. The main categories for the works to be carried out are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drought preparedness ○ Environment ○ Farm infrastructure ○ Natural resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum amount available is \$500,000 with no individual loan exceeding \$250,000. The loan has a term of up to 20 years. The interest rate will be a fixed rate that will be available from the date of your application. You have the choice of repaying monthly, half yearly or annually. • You need to submit the following documents with your application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last 3 yrs balance sheets and Financial Statements ○ Last 3 yrs Individual Tax Returns and Partnership ○ Current listing of asset and liabilities, financial statements ○ Monthly cash flow budget for next 12 months ○ Farm Business and Risk Assessment Plan ○ Copy of latest Shire rates notice and Local Land Service rates notice ○ Mortgagee consent from your bank <p>For further information contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor on 1800 940 404 or visit the RAA website https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund</p>

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WAIVERS, PROGRAMS and TAXATION MEASURES AVAILABLE

WAIVER OF NSW LOCAL LAND SERVICES RATES

- All LLS Rates, including General Rates and Rates for Animal Health & Pests the Meat Industry Levy, and costs of Routine Stock Moving Permit and Stock Identification will be waived for 2019.
- The Waiver will be automatically applied – you do not need to do anything. Contact LLS for information **1300 795 299** for further information.

WAIVER of CLASS 1 AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION

- Class 1 Agricultural Vehicles will be exempt from the next Annual Registration charge (except for Third Party and Stamp Duty)
- Vehicles Include : Bucket Loader; Bulldozer; Combine Harvester; Cotton Pickers; Crop Sprayers (self-propelled); Excavators – tracked & wheeled; Fertiliser Spreader; Grader; Harvesters – full track & rubber-tyred; Infield Transporter – articulated & tracked; Tractors – including tracked.
- Contact Service NSW for more Information on **13 22 13**

WAIVER OF FARM INNOVATION FUND INTEREST CHARGES (FIF)

- ALL EXISTING Farm Innovation Fund customers, AND all applicants who submitted an application on or before 30 July 2018, will have applicable interest charges for the 2017/18 Financial Year, and 2018/19 Financial Year refunded and waived.

WAIVER OF BORDER FENCE MAINTENANCE ‘DOG RATES’

- The NSW Government will pay the annual Border Fence Maintenance, known as ‘dog rates’, which cover the NSW Border Fence for 2019.
- The rates that would have been due on 1 January 2019 will be waived.
- The Waiver will be automatically applied – you do not need to do anything if you are a landholder in the region affected by this.

WAIVERS, PROGRAMS and TAXATION MEASURES AVAILABLE

REBATE ON FIXED CHARGES FOR WATER LICENCES

- A rebate of up to \$4000 per licence will apply to the fixed component of bills for general security licence holders (and supplementary water access licence holders) in rural and regional NSW across surface and ground water systems, and to customers of irrigation Corporation Districts for water entitlement costs incurred.
- The rebates will be automatically applied – you do not need to do anything if you are a holder of a water licence.
- Contact Water NSW for further information on **1300 662 077**

TAXATION MEASURES

- Any drought affected taxpayers who need support with tax debts can ring the ATO on **131 142** to talk about options to help manage their tax obligations. For more information visit www.ato.gov.au/drought
- The **Farm Management Deposits (FMD) Scheme** allows eligible primary producers to set aside per-tax income from primary production in years of high income, which can be drawn on in future years.
 - Primary Producers can :
 - Deposit up to \$800,000 in FMDs
 - Access their FMD early without losing concessionary tax treatment if affected by drought;
 - Offset interest costs on primary production business debt (subject to banks offering FMD loan offset accounts)
- Farmers will be able to **immediately deduct the cost of fodder storage assets**, rather than depreciate over three years.
- **Accelerated depreciation arrangements** for new water infrastructure and fencing are available to help farmers prepare for drought, assist with their cashflow and encourage on-farm investment.
- **Instant Asset Write-Off** for small businesses with a turnover of less than \$10 million for multiple assets that cost less than \$20,000
- **Income Tax Averaging** enables farmers to even out their high and low income years and the tax payable over a maximum of five years, ensuring that they do not pay more tax over a number of years than taxpayers on comparable, but steady incomes.
- Recognising that business circumstances change over time, farmers will be able to resume income tax averaging 10 years after they opted out.

FARM BUSINESS SKILLS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- A subsidy of up to 50% of eligible costs for an approved course or activity – with a maximum reimbursement of \$5000 per farmer and/or \$9000 per farm business. Go to www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/professional-development-program

