

January 2020

- Farm Machinery Improvement Grant
- Farmers' Drought Fund
- CWA Drought Relief
- CMA Drought Employment Program
- Farm Employment Exchange
- Farm Machinery Improvement Vouchers
- Local Government Service Support
- Mental health support
- Farm Business Management and Planning support



## Drought support Millewa and surrounds

The Victorian Government provides a range of assistance to support local communities and farm businesses to manage the impact of drought, including information, tools and resources provided by Agriculture Victoria.

For more information drop into an Agriculture Victoria office, call 136 186 or visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons)

### Financial and Employment Support

<p><b>Farmers' Drought Fund</b></p> <p><b>On-Farm Drought Resilience Grant Program</b></p>	<p>A grant of up to \$5000 is available to eligible drought impacted farm businesses for investment in on-farm drought preparedness and resilience, pasture management and recovery and farm business planning.</p>	<p>Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://ruralfinance.com.au">ruralfinance.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Farmers' Drought Fund</b></p> <p><b>Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA) Drought Relief</b></p>	<p>The Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria is providing household relief up to a maximum of \$3000 per individual applicant and/or household and is available for farming families, farm workers and contractors that are drought-affected and reliant on farming as their primary source of income.</p>	<p>Visit <a href="http://cwaofvic.org.au/drought-relief">cwaofvic.org.au/drought-relief</a> or call Agriculture Victoria on 136 186</p>
<p><b>Farm Machinery Improvement Grant</b></p>	<p>A grant of up to \$10,000 is available per eligible dryland farm business to maintain essential on-farm machinery and equipment to meet key operational requirements and prepare for the 2020 growing season.</p>	<p>Visit <a href="http://vff.org.au">vff.org.au</a> call 1300 882 833 or email <a href="mailto:farmmachinerygrants@vff.org.au">farmmachinerygrants@vff.org.au</a></p>
<p><b>Local Government Service Support payment</b></p>	<p>This payment will provide local governments with flexibility to support dry seasonal conditions and drought affected farming businesses and their communities in 2019/20.</p>	<p>More details will be available soon.</p> <p>To register your interest please email: <a href="mailto:drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au">drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>Farm Employment Exchange</b></p>	<p>The Farm Employment Exchange pilot is a new concept to be trialled by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF). The pilot aims to facilitate connections between employers requiring employees with farmers and farm workers seeking alternative work due to drought and dry conditions.</p>	<p>For more information call the VFF on 1 300 882 833.</p>
<p><b>Catchment Management Authority Drought Employment Program</b></p>	<p>The program is part of the Victorian Government's drought response package and will provide flexible work options for people who have suffered financial hardship as a result of the drought in the Millewa and Carwarp areas.</p>	<p>For more information, visit <a href="http://water.vic.gov.au/dry/drought">water.vic.gov.au/dry/drought</a></p>

Financial and Employment Support		
<b>On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme (Aust Govt)</b>	A grant of up to \$25,000 is available to assist farmers impacted by drought and dry seasonal conditions invest in on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs or for permanent horticultural plantings.	Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://ruralfinance.com.au">ruralfinance.com.au</a>
<b>Agriculture Energy Investment Plan</b>	On-farm energy grants are available to eligible primary producers until March 2020 or until available funding is exhausted. Grants will be provided on a "dollar for dollar" cash co-contribution basis.	Call the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15 or visit <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy">agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy</a>
<b>Victorian State Concessions</b>	The Victorian Government offers a number of concessions designed to assist and improve the affordability of essential services for low-income Victorian households.	Call 1300 650 172 or visit <a href="http://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>
<b>Australian Tax Office – Drought help</b>	Tax advice for drought affected tax payers.	Call 1800 806 218 or visit <a href="http://ato.gov.au/drought">ato.gov.au/drought</a>
<b>Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)</b>	The RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance (FHA).	Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call Sun RFCS: 1300 769 489 or visit <a href="http://agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service">agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance/rural-financial-counselling-service</a>
<b>Farm Household Allowance</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://humanservices.gov.au">humanservices.gov.au</a> (search for Farm Household Allowance on the homepage)
<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://humanservices.gov.au">humanservices.gov.au</a> (search for Farmer Assistance Hotline on the homepage)
<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. An interest free period on existing and new drought loans applies from 1 January 2020.	Call 1800 875 675 or visit <a href="http://ric.gov.au/">ric.gov.au/</a>
Technical Support		
<b>Farm Business Management and Planning Support</b>	<p>Agriculture Victoria delivers technical and decision-making support services to assist farm businesses manage dry seasonal conditions. Working with our industry partners the department provides services across industries including beef, sheep, dairy, grains, horticulture and irrigation.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria also has technical information, videos and tools on topics such as: stock containment areas, feeding and managing livestock during dry seasonal conditions, resources to support climate change and risk management and business management information and support for young farmers.</p>	<p>Call 136 186 or visit <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a> or email <a href="mailto:drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au">drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a></p> <p>For information on workshops and events, visit: <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops">agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops</a></p>
<b>One-on-one consultation sessions</b>	<p>Agriculture Victoria is providing Millewa farmers 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>Call 136 186 or visit <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a> or email <a href="mailto:drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au">drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a></p> <p>For information on workshops and events, visit: <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops">agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops</a></p>
<b>Stock containment areas</b>	Agriculture Victoria has developed resources to support farmers in designing and managing stock containment areas. Stock containment areas are a valuable tool to manage livestock and to protect soil and pasture resources during adverse seasonal conditions. Farmers with livestock can request a one-on-one visit from Agriculture Victoria staff to learn more about establishing a stock containment area.	Call 136 186 or visit <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/livestock-after-an-emergency/stock-containment-areas">agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/livestock-after-an-emergency/stock-containment-areas</a> or contact your local Agriculture Victoria office for more information.
<b>On-farm discussion groups and drop-in sessions</b>	Agriculture Victoria will deliver several on-farm discussion groups to discuss options for managing livestock, soil management and	Call 136 186 or visit <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a>

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additional targeted information to assist farmers make timely decisions.

or email  
[drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

For information on workshops and events, visit:  
[agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/farmer-workshops)

## Farm Hub (Aust Govt)

Farm Hub aims to provide farmers with a single portal through which they can access information about assistance and advice to manage hardship.

Visit [farmhub.org.au](http://farmhub.org.au)

## Personal and Family Support

### Mental Health Support

The Mental Health Support package includes additional counselling and co-ordination and psychological first aid training.  
If you need immediate assistance with your mental health and wellbeing, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.  
If you need emergency assistance, call 000.

Mallee Drought Package Coordinator

Bruce Thorne, DHHS  
[Bruce.Thorne@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Thorne@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### Rural Aid

Rural Aid provides support for farmers including a one-off \$1,500 cash payment for bill expenses (applicants need to meet eligibility requirements and register online). Farmers can also register for fodder, fuel and food vouchers and domestic water deliveries.

Call 1300 327 624 or visit [ruralaid.org.au](http://ruralaid.org.au)

### Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Call 131 114 or visit [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

### Beyondblue

24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.

Call 1300 224 636 or visit  
[beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

### National Centre for Farmer Health

The National Centre for Farmer Health provides ongoing leadership to improve the health wellbeing and safety of farm men and women, farm workers, families and communities.

Call (03) 5551 8533 or visit  
[farmerhealth.org.au](http://farmerhealth.org.au)

### Look Over the Farm Gate Program

Look Over the Farm Gate provides funding for communities to deliver health and wellbeing support through community awareness and social and emotional wellbeing workshops and events.

Call 1300 882 833 or visit  
[lookoverthefarmgate.org.au](http://lookoverthefarmgate.org.au)

### MensLine Australia

24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.

Call 1300 78 99 78 or visit  
[mensline.org.au](http://mensline.org.au)

### Kids Help Line

24/7 telephone and online counselling service for people aged 5 - 25.

Call 1800 55 1800 or visit  
[kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

### Family Relationship Service

Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.

Call 1800 050 321 or visit  
[familyrelationships.gov.au](http://familyrelationships.gov.au)

### Farm Hub

Farm Hub aims to provide farmers with a single portal through which they can access information about assistance and advice to manage hardship.

Visit [farmhub.org.au](http://farmhub.org.au)

### Victorian Better Health Channel

Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date and easy to understand.

Visit [betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au)  
Nurse on call 1300 606 024

### State Schools' Relief

Provides new school uniforms, shoes and books for families who are facing hardship.

Contact your child's school or visit  
[education.vic.gov.au](http://education.vic.gov.au) (search state schools' relief) or <https://ssr.net.au/>

### Royal Flying Doctor Service

Free, confidential mental health and wellbeing service for people living in rural and remote communities.

Call (03) 8412 0400 or visit  
[flyingdoctor.org.au/vic](http://flyingdoctor.org.au/vic)

### Mental Health Care Plan

A mental health care plan provides Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or 10 group appointments with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker in a year.

Contact your local GP for a referral  
[healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan](http://healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan)

### Community Health Care providers

Community Health services provide a range of primary health care services that could include: acute hospital care, medical centre, home and community care, district nursing, women's health, allied health services (podiatry, occupational therapy etc.), counselling, pharmacy, referrals.

Contact your local Community Health service to confirm their services.

January 2020

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Regional Support		
<b>Community Priorities Fund</b>  <b>NEW</b>	Funding for Mildura Rural City Council to support small community infrastructure projects, community events and initiatives that bring communities together.	More details will be available soon.  To register your interest please email: <a href="mailto:drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au">drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Managing wildlife on private land</b>	Permits are available for the control wildlife on private land.	Contact DELWP on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://wildlife.vic.gov.au">wildlife.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Improved access to Emergency Water Supply Points (EWSPs)</b>	Funding to improve access to emergency water supply points where there is a high incidence of water carting. The program will be delivered by rural water corporations in partnership with local councils where need has been identified.	Contact DELWP on 136 186 or visit <a href="http://water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points">water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points</a>
<b>Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal</b>	The Tackling Tough Times Together grant program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the ongoing effects of the drought. Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.	Call 1800 170 020 or visit <a href="http://www.frrr.org.au/">www.frrr.org.au/</a>
<b>Regional Drought Coordinator</b>	The key point of coordination at the local level, providing information on drought services, support options, emerging risks and pressures in the region.	Sue McConnell, Agriculture Victoria on 0418 572 087.

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