



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SUPPORT NOW AVAILABLE FOR RURAL BUSINESSES**

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Gippsland is pleased to accept funding from the Victorian Government to extend services to non-agricultural rural small businesses throughout the drought affected areas of Gippsland.

Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford recently announced a \$25m Drought Preparedness and Support Package that will target assistance for mental health, small business planning and cost of living for families. This funding builds on the already \$5m provided last month to support farming communities in East and Central Gippsland.

Kylie Holmes, Executive Officer of RFCS Gippsland stated, “We are grateful for this generous Government support which acknowledges the flow-on effects of the drought impacting more than just farmers. Their whole community suffers, including small businesses.

We have supported rural communities for over thirty years, and our team of dedicated and experienced Financial Counsellors, together with our huge network of business professionals and health services, are well prepared to provide this much needed assistance to small rural businesses”.

An additional Financial Counsellor will be appointed shortly to commence engagement with business owners to provide immediate assistance and help plan a path forward to build long-term resilience.

Complimenting this support, the State Government have committed to providing more business mentoring services and planning workshops, of which RFCS plans to back-up with ongoing coaching assistance to ensure businesses stay on track and achieve their goals.

Interested businesses seeking this support are encouraged to contact RFCS on 1300 045 747

Copy of the Minister’s Media Release can be found here

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/supporting-victorian-farmers-and-preparing-for-drought/>

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