

# Drought Conditions

## Support in Central and East Gippsland

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

MAY 2019

TECHNICAL SUPPORT		
<b>Farming and Community Group Drought Funding Program</b>	<p>Applications are now open for the Farming and Community Group Drought Funding Program.</p> <p>Victorian farmer, landholder, not for profit and community groups are invited to engage technical experts for the provision of capability building workshops and events to prepare and respond to dry seasonal conditions and or drought.</p> <p>The program is available to eligible groups in the following Local Government Areas: East Gippsland and Wellington.</p>	<p>Visit: <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons</a></p> <p>Email: drought.support@ecodev.vic.gov.au</p>
<b>Farm Business Financial Management for Dry Seasons</b>	<p>Delivered by Agriculture Victoria and professional providers these workshops will provide targeted and relevant information to boost awareness and capability in farm business planning, risk management and financial literacy. One follow-up individual consultation will be available to workshop participants to provide further support.</p> <p>Workshop dates and locations are available on Agriculture Victoria website.</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>
<b>Technical and decision-making support for farm businesses</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
<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 0013</p> <p><b>Irrigation</b> Janice Dowe, Maffra (03) 5147 0854</p>
<b>Stock Containment Areas</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
<b>Feeding Beef and Sheep</b>	<p>Agriculture Victoria has developed booklets on feeding and managing beef and sheep during dry seasonal conditions.</p>	
<b>Weather and Climate</b>	<p>Information, tools and resources to support climate change risk management within the Victorian agricultural sector.</p>	

REGIONAL SUPPORT		
<b>Managing wildlife</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186</p>
<b>Emergency Water Supply Point (EWSP) improvement program</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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></p>
<b>Catchment Management Authorities Drought Employment Program</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Call East Gippsland CMA Reception on (03) 5152 0600 or egcma@egcma.com.au</p>
<b>Regional Drought Coordinator</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Call Prue McTaggart, Agriculture Victoria, Bairnsdale, (03) 5152 0600</p>

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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>

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT		
<b>Pasture Recovery and Management Grant Program</b>	A grant of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) is available to assist eligible farm businesses located in East Gippsland and Wellington Shires implement pasture restoration and other land management activities that may aid in pasture recovery. Eligible farm businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution. The program will accept applications for expenditure incurred on or after 1 January 2019.	Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a>
<b>On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants</b>	Grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) are available to eligible farm businesses in Wellington and East Gippsland shires. Eligible farm businesses are required to provide at least dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution. The grants program will assist farm businesses implement on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness.	Call Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit <a href="https://www.ruralfinance.com.au">https://www.ruralfinance.com.au</a>
<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 and East Gippsland Shires.	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>

<sup>^</sup>Eligibility criteria and loan amounts have recently changed.

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