Drought support

resource directory Statewide edition, October 2025 AGRICULTURE VICTORIA We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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Contents

Drought support for farmers	3
Drought Support Package	4
Farm Drought Support Grants	5
Technical Decision-making Support Program	6
Interstate hay and fodder movement permit support and freight network	7
On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program	7
Duties and Fees Relief Package	7
Statewide mental health and wellbeing support	8
Statewide and Regional Drought Coordinators	8
South west Victoria specific programs	8
Ongoing business support	10
Rural Financial Counselling Service	1
Farm Household Allowance	11
Local council rates – hardship assistance	1°
Regional Investment Corporation	1°
Farm Business Resilience Program	12
Farmer Assistance Hotline	12
Business Victoria	12
Technical support and resources	13
Ongoing technical support	14
Feeding livestock – beef, sheep and dairy	14
Managing farm water	15
Personal wellbeing support	16
National Centre for Farmer Health	17
Rural Financial Counselling Service – wellbeing support	17
GPs and community health care providers	17
Royal Flying Doctor Service – Flying Doctor Wellbeing	18
Personal wellbeing contacts	19
Appendices	20
Appendix 1: Drought support action plan template	20
Appendix 2: Government and agency contacts	2
Appendix 3: Community groups and service organisations	22



Drought support for farmers

The Victorian Government is providing direct drought support of \$144 million for farmers and communities across Victoria impacted by drought.

The package builds on existing supports already available to farmers to prepare for and respond to drought and difficult seasons.

Available technical advice and support includes workshops and field

days, and a comprehensive archive of practical information on the Agriculture Victoria website.

Use this edition of the 'Drought support resource directory' (statewide edition, July 2025) as your guide to current and ongoing support programs.

Agriculture Victoria continues to monitor seasonal conditions across the state.



Drought Support Package

The Victorian Government and Agriculture Victoria is committed to supporting farmers to manage the impacts of drought and difficult seasonal conditions in a changing climate.

To date, the Victorian Government has provided \$144 million towards helping farmers manage drought conditions.

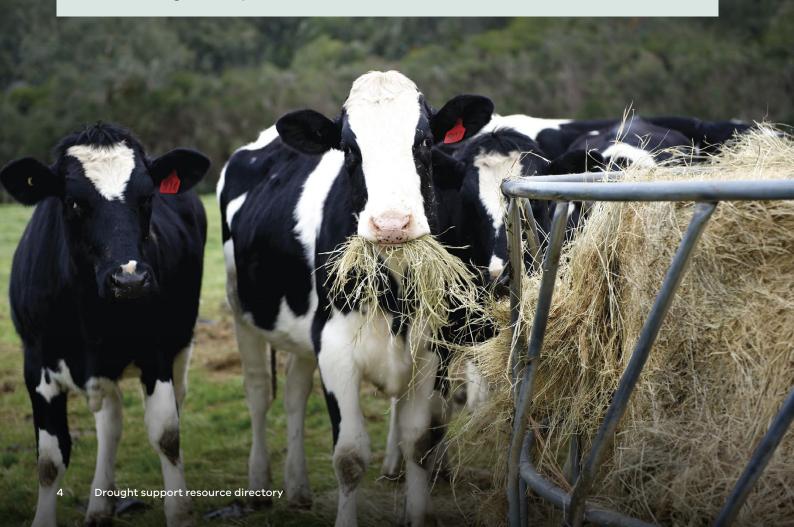
Statewide, the package includes continuation of grants to support on-farm drought management, technical decision-making, mental health support and kangaroo management, along with paused indexation and reduced duties, fees and charges.

In south west Victoria, which has been in drought for 2 years, cashflow

support in the form of household relief payments by the Country Women's Association and the Primary Producer Support Payments via local councils has been funded, as well as the introduction of a Catchment Management Authority-led drought employment program.

Additional funding is available to support practical measures to provide greater access to water, including extending existing water infrastructure and investigating options to widen access to reliable regional water sources.

The package builds on existing government and agency supports, technical resources, workshops and field days, already available to farmers across the state.



Farm Drought Support Grants

Applications for the Farm Drought Support Grants Program (formerly the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants Program) are now open for all farmers across the state.

Farmers across the state can access grants of up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) under the Farm Drought Support Grants Program.

The grants support eligible primary producers to invest in on-farm infrastructure that improves drought management and preparedness, as well as cover costs for water carting and pasture re-establishment. Eligible infrastructure works or other eligible activities undertaken AFTER 30 September 2024 are covered by the grants program.

The Farm Drought Support Grants continue in south west Victoria, with eligible grant recipients now able to access an additional \$5,000 (ex-GST) top-up taking the total grant on offer up to \$10,000 (ex-GST) across 12 local government areas including the lower half of West Wimmera (postcodes 3312, 3317, 3318 and 3319)* who have had access to this program since September 2024.

Check the eligibility map below. Program guidelines are available from Rural Finance.

A dollar-for-dollar co-contribution is required from the grant recipient.

Eligible drought-affected farmers can apply for grants to support on-farm improvements such as:

- water infrastructure upgrades (pipes, tanks, troughs, dams)
- stock containment areas
- grain and fodder storage
- · water carting activities
- pasture re-establishment.

Rural Finance is administering the program on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425 for information on the guidelines, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

Statewide program

Find about more about grants through this QR code



Drought Support Package eligibility map

\$5,000 (ex-GST) Farm Drought Support Grants, technical-decision making, fee and duty relief, On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program, and Look Over the Farm Gate mental health and wellbeing grants program. 2 4 LOCATIONS West Wimmera

Up to \$10,000 (ex-GST) Farm Drought Support Grants, Primary Producer Support Payments, technical-decision making, targeted household relief payments, fee and duty relief, On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program, and Look Over the Farm Gate mental health and wellbeing grants program.

South west Victoria LGAs

- 7. Pyrenees Shire
- 8. Corangamite Shire
- 9 Golden Plains Shire
- 10. Colac Otway Shire
- 11. Surf Coast Shire
- 12. Greater Geelong City

(lower half)*

Glenelg Shire

5. Ararat Rural City

6. Warrnambool City

Grampians Shire

Southern

4. Moyne Shire

Technical Decision-making Support Program

Funding for additional technical decision-making support is available as part of the Drought Support Package, consisting of a one-on-one advisory service and a boosted program of events.

Drought one-on-one advisory service

Drought-affected farmers across the state can register interest for the one-on-one advisory program as part of the Drought Support Package.

The program offers eligible farmers the opportunity to sit down with a consultant for a 3 hour session, to take stock, discuss and plan the best way forward for their business. A follow up phone call with their advisor will help farmers to consolidate their plans.

The farm advisory session aims to:

- identify key business and farm risks, stress and/or pressure points
- conduct feed and/or water budgets, or other analysis
- explore options and trigger points for the short, medium and long term, e.g. whether to de-stock or lease
- provide referrals to other support services where relevant.

Participants can indicate their preferred consultant from a list of experienced service providers. Eligibility guidelines apply.

To apply, farmers will need to provide their Australian Business Number (ABN) and contact details.

How to register

Register an Expression of Interest by filling out this online form.

Find out more about expressing your interest through this QR code



Further information

If you have difficulty accessing the online form, email <u>drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au</u>

Boosted program of events

A boosted program of events is being offered as part of the Drought Support Package. The events are being delivered by technical experts to provide advice and information to support decision-making.

Find out more about events through this QR code





Interstate hay and fodder movement permit support and freight network

A free and tailored service is now available to help navigate the permit requirements to bring feed into Victoria while managing biosecurity risks. Suppliers, transporters and farmers can now apply for a free Plant Biosecurity Permit, with applications processed within 2 working days.

The Victorian Drought Freight Network has been established to allow grain and fodder transport to Victorian farms in need. As part of this a preapproved permit network will streamline access for interstate freight operators.

Scan the QR code for information about the Victorian Drought Freight Network



Further information

Visit <u>agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought</u> to apply for a Plant Biosecurity Permit or email <u>market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au</u>

On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program

The On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program is for farmers with an authority to control wildlife (ATCW) permit to hire accredited professional harvesters, authorised by the Game Management Authority, to help control kangaroos on drought-affected properties.

Farmers whose livestock are competing with kangaroos for fodder can apply for rebates of up to \$450 (ex-GST) to engage professional harvesters to manage kangaroos under an ATCW.

Scan the QR code to apply for an Authority to Control Wildlife permit



Further information

If you have difficulty accessing the online form, email drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Duties and Fees Relief Package

A duties and fees relief package of more than \$10 million towards waivers of biosecurity duties and targeted relief from regulatory fees and charges is available.

Agriculture Victoria is working with livestock biosecurity compensation fund advisory committee chairs, and food safety regulators Dairy Food Safety Victoria and PrimeSafe, to develop this package.

In addition, Agriculture Victoria will waive indexation on its 2025–26 biosecurity fees and charges, to assist farmers experiencing cashflow challenges.

Scan the QR code to find out more about duties and fees relief



Statewide mental health and wellbeing support

Look Over the Farm Gate

A 'Look Over the Farm Gate' mental health and wellbeing program is available statewide to help communities come together and support farmers and farming families under stress. The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) is administering the program.

Rural Financial Counselling Service wellbeing counsellor

In addition to the ongoing rural financial counselling services available statewide, wellbeing counsellors are now available in Gippsland, the north east and north west, as well as south west Victoria.

Details about how to access the service are on page 17.

Visit the National Centre for Farmer Health website through this QR code



Further information

Visit the National Centre for Farmer Health Support Hub

farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub

Statewide and Regional Drought Coordinators

A Statewide Drought Coordinator is working alongside the South West Regional Drought Coordinator liaising with local councils, State Government departments, local water corporations, catchment management authorities, local health services and industry service providers in the south west to ensure support is reaching the people that need it, when they need it.

South west Victoria specific programs

Recognising the ongoing impact of drought for farmers in south west Victoria, the following programs are available.

Financial Household Relief Payments

The Victorian Government has established the Household Financial Relief Program to provide financial assistance to help meet household expenses of eligible farming families and those working on farms affected by drought conditions.

The program is administered by the Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA).

Under the Program, the CWA of Victoria will provide payments of up to \$1,000 to eligible recipients to assist with household expenses such as residential rates, food, school expenses, rent, household and medical bills.

Find out more about Financial Household Relief payments through this QR code



Further information

Visit https://cwaofvic.org.au/ for more information and to apply

Primary Producer Support Payments

Primary Producer Support Payments to provide cashflow relief to primary producers in 12 south west local government areas including parts of West Wimmera shire that have experienced the effects of drought the longest.

The rate relief is being applied by local councils via a reduction as indicated on rate notices.

Contact your local council for further information.

Small Business Financial Counsellor

Additional funding is supporting small businesses in south west Victoria.

A Small Business Financial Counsellor is available in the RFCS Victoria West service to help small businesses:

- gain a better understanding of their financial position
- identify and explore options and opportunities
- identify and apply for grants
- negotiate with lenders/creditors, and insurers
- conduct a SWOT analysis
- provide referrals to professional services including. RFCS wellbeing support

Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Drought Employment Program

A CMA Drought Employment Program will provide meaningful off-farm employment opportunities to people facing hardship due to drought conditions in south west Victoria.

The program will enable CMAs to accelerate and bring forward essential activities to improve catchment condition and care for waterways at priority sites. This could include activities such as pest and weed control, riparian fencing and revegetation.

Contact the Corangamite or Glenelg-Hopkins CMAs for more information about the program.

Find out more about the SBFC through this QR code



Further information

Visit the RFCS Victoria West website wswrcs.com.au/
Call RFCS Victoria West on 1300 735 578 or email admin@wswrcs.com.au

Drought support overview

A complete overview of the Drought Support Package is available on the Agriculture Victoria website.

Find out more about the Drought Support Package through this QR code



Further information

Visit the Agriculture Victoria website agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought Call 136 186 or email drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Ongoing business support

The following ongoing business and financial supports are available for farmers who are facing tough times because of dry seasonal conditions, drought and natural disasters.

These include fortnightly payments from the Australian Government's Farm Household Allowance, low interest loans from the Regional Investment Corporation, potential hardship assistance in relation to local council rates. The Rural Financial Counselling Service is available to assist you in identifying the best options for your business.

In the long term, Agriculture Victoria's Farm Business Resilience Program is available to support farmers with farm business planning and manage the impacts of drought and a changing climate.



Rural Financial Counselling Service

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) offers free, confidential and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.

A Rural Financial Counsellor can visit farmers at their place of business or residence and can assist with business planning, creditor negotiation, cash flow management, accessing government and industry support programs and referrals to other professional services.

Further information

Connect with your closest service by visiting rfcsnetwork.com.au
Call 1300 771 741

Farm Household Allowance

Farmers in financial hardship may be eligible for the Australian Government's Farm Household Allowance (FHA), a fortnightly payment available for up to four years in a specific 10-year period. A Rural Financial Counsellor can help farmers to understand eligibility and apply.

Further information

Search for 'Farm Household Allowance' on the Services Australia website servicesaustralia.gov.au Call 132 316

Local council rates – hardship assistance

If you are having difficulty paying your rates, contact your local council to see what hardship assistance they can offer. The sooner you contact them the better. When speaking to your local council officer, find out about:

- available hardship assistance
- if you are eligible for any rate concessions
- what type of assistance is best for you.

Further information

Visit the National Debt Helpline website ndh.org.au/debt-problems/council-rates/ Call 1800 007 007

Find the contact details of your local council at vic.gov.au/know-your-council

Regional Investment Corporation

Farmers may be able to access low-interest loans through the Australian Government's Regional Investment Corporation (RIC). A RIC loan is a partnership between the farm business, a commercial lender and the Regional Investment Corporation.



Farm Investment Loan

The Farm Investment Loan is used to 'recover from severe business impact and prepare for future financial disruptions'; it can be used to refinance your debt, pay your operating expenses and enhance your productivity.



Drought Loan

The Drought Loan is used to 'help prepare for, manage through, and recover from drought'; it can be used to refinance certain debt, pay outstanding bills, pay for fodder or carting water, and contribute to the cost of drought recovery.

Read the guidelines and apply for a loan through this QR code



Further information

This information is current at the time of publication.

For more information, visit the <u>Regional</u>
<u>Investment Corporation</u> website at <u>ric.gov.au</u>
Call 1800 875 675
Email <u>info@ric.gov.au</u>

Loan terms

- \$2 million maximum amount
- Variable rate
 Check the current interest rate at www.ric.gov.au
- ✓ 10-year term
- First 5 years interest only
- \$0 extra repayments
- \$0 application fee
- \$0 early payout fee
- ✓ No redraw

Farm Business Resilience Program

The Farm Business Resilience Program is supporting farmers to develop knowledge and skills to improve their farm business and be better equipped to manage the impacts of drought and a changing climate.

The program is delivered through short courses, workshops, webinars, field days or farms walks, tailored to suit the needs of farmers and community groups.

The Farm Business Resilience Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government.

Further information

Visit the Farm Business Resilience Program website agriculture.vic.gov.au/FBRP

Other resources

To access latest events and information subscribe to the Resilience and Recovery digital newsletter <u>agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/newsletters/ag-recovery-newsletter</u>

Farmer Assistance Hotline

Contact the Farmer Assistance Hotline to find out about Australian Government support services available to farmers and rural communities on **132 316.**

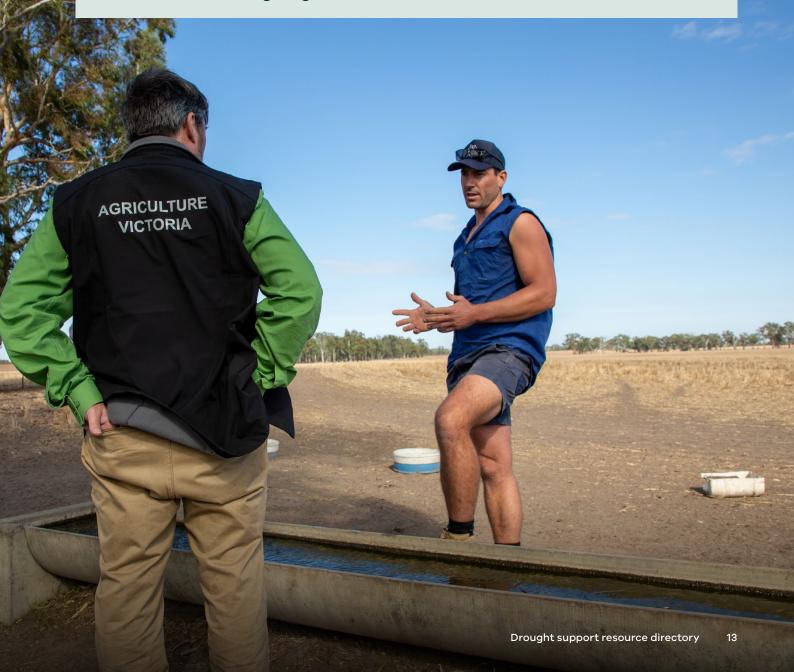
Business Victoria

The Business Victoria website has information and resources to support businesses including currently available grants and programs. Visit **business.vic.gov.au**.

Technical support and resources

Agriculture Victoria works closely with Victorian farmers to deliver technical information and decision-making support for managing drought and dry seasonal conditions.

Tailored services are being delivered to help farmers make informed decisions for managing difficult seasonal conditions and includes information onfeed and water budgeting. Additional technical decision-making support is being provided as part of the Drought Support Package to ensure farm businesses have access to advice through one-on-one consultations, webinars, workshops, field days, and boosted online tools and information.



Ongoing technical support

Agriculture Victoria is working with Victorian farmers to deliver technical information and decision-making support for managing drought or dry seasonal conditions. Topics include:

- drought planning
- animal health
- farm water reticulation and infrastructure, including farm dams
- feed and water budgeting
- soil health and maintaining ground cover
- pasture and crop management
- stock containment areas design and use.

There are a number of business planning templates and resources available that support farmers to achieve their short, medium and long-term business and personal goals.

Find out more through this QR code



Further information

Visit the Agriculture Victoria website to learn more about upcoming technical events agriculture.vic.gov.au/events Call 136 186

Email drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au

To help you start planning on your prioritisation and decision-making around issues and opportunities, an action plan template is also provided on page 21 of this directory.

Feeding livestock – beef, sheep and dairy

Agriculture Victoria's website hosts resources on livestock feeding and nutrition, including drought feeding books for beef cattle and sheep.

Dairy Australia's website hosts resources to support farmers in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from hot and dry conditions including drought.

Beef Cattle Drought Feeding book

The booklet is a practical guide to feeding and managing beef cattle in drought.

Topics include water during a drought, pasture management, monitoring stock condition and choosing feeds.

Sheep Drought Feeding book

The booklet is a practical guide to feeding and managing sheep in drought.

Topics include setting targets for sheep production and assessing the condition of sheep, what to feed sheep, and sheep diseases associated with drought.

Find out more about the drought feeding books through this QR code



Find more about livestock management, health and welfare through this QR code



Resources for feeding dairy cattle

Dairy Australia has a range of resources to help with feeding dairy cattle. This includes factsheets and tools and a 'back of the envelope feed budget.

Find out more about Feeding and Farm Systems through this QR code



Further information

Visit the Agriculture Victoria website to view or download the drought feeding books agriculture.vic.gov.au/feedinglivestock

Visit the Dairy Australia website **dairyaustralia.com.au**

Managing farm water

Use these resources to assist with managing farm water supplies.

Farm Water Calculator

The calculator can be used to determine:

- how much water is used on the property
- how much water can be stored on the property
- the potential supply of water from a range of water sources such as shed rooves, waterways, groundwater and/or catchment runoff
- · how long the water will last.

Personal monitoring of farm water use, storage and supplies should be done in conjunction with this tool . The figures and formulas are based upon best science; use figures as a guide only.

Summer Water Calculator

Use this calculator to estimate current water levels in dams/tanks and work out how long water for livestock will last. It calculates automatically, allows you to select different dam shapes, accounts for batter slope and summer evaporation.

Find out more about tools and calculators through this QR code



Dairy shed water usage

This comprehensive guide to calculating water use in the dairy shed has been developed to help dairy farmers determine the current volume of water used in their dairy shed operations to:

- have a greater understanding and appreciation of the amount of water that is used
- identify the scope for water savings and to encourage greater water use efficiency in the dairy
- provide this figure to your water corporation to apply to update an existing licence or to apply for a new water licence
- work out the volume of water you need to purchase if you are in a capped catchment.

Find out more about dairy shed water usage through this QR code



Securing water for a rainfed dairy farm

Securing and distributing water for a rainfed dairy farm can be a complex task. This can be particularly challenging when the business changes: for example: as the herd expands; when a new block or farm is purchased, and existing water line locations are unknown; or when water supplies fail due to quality or declining availability.

This booklet provides guidance on working through key water challenges including:

- an immediate water crisis (such as running out of water in the short term); and
- planning options to help secure water in the long term.

Find out more about securing water through this QR code



Managing water in stock containment areas

A stock containment area consists of one or more small yards where stock are confined during periods of drought, natural disasters and other emergencies.

Find out more about water supply containment through this QR code



Protecting water supplies with sediment fences

Protecting your water supply from contamination is important when there is little ground cover. If your dam or waterway is at risk, a quick and simple way to help keep your water clean is to build strategically placed sediment fences at the inflow points.

Find out more about building a sediment fence through this QR code



Personal wellbeing support

Taking care of yourself in tough times is as important as taking care of the farm.

Along with family and friends, there are wellbeing and mental health services available in the community to help you manage stress.

In addition, Agriculture Victoria is supporting the work of the Rural Financial Counselling Service and the National Centre for Farmer Health.

This is the time to stay connected with family and friends and seek the support of qualified professionals when you need it.



National Centre for Farmer Health

The National Centre for Farmer Health is supporting primary producers through the delivery of initiatives to boost farmer mental health and wellbeing, including:

- Access to an online mental health support hub

 Resources for managing tough times that
 brings together mental health information and
 resources in a central location.
- 'Managing Stress on the Farm' book explores the common causes of stressors on farms and offers practical ways to deal with them. It also includes the Steering Straight plan, to help individuals manage their mental health with practical, useful steps.

Find out more about National Care for Farmer Health through this QR code



Further information

More information is available on the National Centre for Farmer Health Support Hub farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub.

Rural Financial Counselling Service – wellbeing support

Wellbeing counsellors are now available in Gippsland, the north east and north west, as well as south west Victoria.

RFCS wellbeing counsellors can help farmers and small business owners to:

- develop strategies to cope with stress
- recognise signs of poor health in themselves and/or their workers
- set up a support network within family/friends/ community
- identify groups/activities within the community that can help
- access health services through referrals.

Find out more about RFCS services through this QR code



Further information

Visit the RFCS networks <u>rfcsnetwork.com.au</u>
Call **1300 771 741**

GPs and community health care providers

If in need of support during difficult times, visit your local doctor (GP).

Community health services also 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 GP or local community health service.

Royal Flying Doctor Service – Flying Doctor Wellbeing

Flying Doctor Wellbeing is a free mental health and wellbeing service for people in some rural and remote Victorian communities.

It provides access to mental health consultations to people in their local communities.

Further information

More information is available at Flying Doctor Wellbeing

Visit flyingdoctor.org.au/vic Call (03) 8412 0480 Email wellbeing@rfds.vic.gov.au



Personal wellbeing contacts

National Centre for Farmer Health	Support resources and services for emotional and social wellbeing, farm business support, information for rural and health professionals, rural support organisations.	Call (03) 5551 8533 Visit <u>farmerhealth.org.au/</u> <u>support-hub</u>
RFCS – wellbeing support	Wellbeing support to help with mental stresses resulting from financial issues.	Call 1300 771 741 Visit rfcsnetwork.com.au
Australian Red Cross	For people affected by Victorian severe weather events and natural disasters.	Call 1800 733 276 Visit <u>redcross.org.au</u>
Lifeline	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.	Call 131 114 Visit lifeline.org.au
Beyond Blue	24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.	Call 1300 224 636 Visit beyondblue.org.au
MensLine Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78 Visit mensline.org.au
Family Relationship Service and Advice Line	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 Visit familyrelationships.gov.au
Mental Health Treatment Plan	Provides Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual appointments per year with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker.	Contact your GP for a referral Visit healthdirect.gov.au/ mental-health- treatment-plan
Kids Helpline	Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.	Call 1800 551 800 Visit kidshelpline.com.au/
Parentline	Counselling and information for families with children up to 18 years. Open 8am to midnight, seven days.	Call 132 289 Visit <u>services.dffh.vic.gov.au/</u> <u>parentline</u>
Nurse-on-Call	Expert health information and advice (24/7)	Call 1300 60 60 24
Rural Aid	Rural Aid offers free, confidential counselling to Rural Aid registered farmers and their families. Rural Aid also provides critical support to farmers affected by natural disaster through financial, water, fodder and volunteer assistance.	Call 1300 327 624 Email contact@ruralaid.org.au Visit www.ruralaid.org.au
Better Health Channel	Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed and locally relevant.	Visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Find out more about supports available on the Agriculture Victoria website through this QR code



Appendices

Appendix 1: Drought support action plan template

Business planning templates are tools that support farmers to achieve their short, medium and long-term business and personal goals.

The accompanying A3 Action Plan template has been designed to support your prioritisation and decision-making around issues and opportunities. Please see the separate A3 action plan template supplied with this resource directory.

Find out more about other templates through this QR code





Appendix 2: Government and agency contacts

Agriculture Victoria		
Agriculture Services	The Agriculture Services team works with farmers and industry to prepare for and manage drought and dry seasonal conditions by delivering tailored services and support.	Call 136 186 Email recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au
Technical information	The Agriculture Victoria website has a wide of range of information and guidance on issues such as animal welfare, drought planning, assessing pasture resources, measuring feed on offer, stock containment areas and tools for making rations.	Visit <u>www.agriculture.vic.gov.au</u>
The Conservation R	egulator	
Authority to Control Wildlife permits (kangaroo control)	The Conservation Regulator oversees the Authority to Control Wildlife permit process. Wildlife control must be lawful, thoughtful and well planned. It must consider the needs of people to protect their land, property and safety and it must also ensure animal welfare and environmental values are protected.	Visit <u>www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations</u>
Business support		
Business Victoria	The Business Victoria website has information and resources to support businesses including currently available grants and programs.	Visit <u>www.business.vic.gov.au</u>
Local Government		
Local Councils	Find contact details for your local shire council.	Visit <u>www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council</u>
Water and catchme	ents	
Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs)	Ten CMAs across the state are responsible for the integrated planning and coordination of land, water and biodiversity in each catchment and land protection regions.	Visit <u>www.viccatchments.com.au</u>
Water corporations and services	Water corporations provide water supply, sewage and trade waste disposal services across the state. Of these, there are 4 rural water corporations delivering water supply, drainage, and salinity mitigation services for irrigation and domestic and stock purposes.	Visit <u>www.water.vic.gov.au</u>

Appendix 3: Community groups and service organisations

Not-for-profit community-based groups and registered charities are actively supporting drought-affected farmers across the state with fodder and other practical assistance including vouchers.

If you need their support or want to support the work they do, contact them today.

Aussie Hay Runners

Aussie Hay Runners deliver donated hay to farmers who have been impacted by natural disasters like fire, flood and drought. Fodder is transported to impacted communities using volunteer truck drivers.

Call **0421 972 332**

Email

aussiehayrunners@gmail.com

Blaze Aid

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters. Their current drought program is Give a Farmer a Break, to raise money for fodder.

Call **0418 990 267**

Email admin@blazeaid.com.au

Visit www.blazeaid.com.au

Farm Angels

Farm Angels delivers targeted practical, financial and ongoing support to Australian primary producers affected by natural disasters such as droughts, floods and fires.

As a registered charity, it also provides mental health and wellbeing support for farming families during crises and recovery.

Call: **0407 396 587**

Email: support@farmangels.org.au
Visit: www.farmangels.org.au

Need for Feed

Need for Feed is a volunteer organisation coordinated by the Lions Club. They provide emergency fodder at a state and national level to support farmers and rural communities. The organisation welcomes all fodder donations from hay, non-perishable household goods to dog food and other types of animal feed, as well as financial donations.

Email contact@needforfeed.org

Visit: www.needforfeed.org

Rotary

Rotary clubs in Victoria support farmers, particularly in times of drought and other emergencies. They provide various forms of assistance, including financial aid, practical support like fodder provision and mental health resources.

Email: <u>info@rawcs.org.au</u>

Visit: www.rawcs.org.au

Rural Aid

Rural Aid provides critical support to farmers affected by natural disaster including drought. Eligible primary producers, including livestock, produce, and beekeeping farmers can register with Rural Aid to start receiving support including fodder, domestic water, financial assistance and counselling and wellbeing services.

Call **1300 327 624**

Email contact@ruralaid.org.au

Visit www.ruralaid.org.au

