

Disaster Recovery Funding

Joint Australian – New South Wales government assistance

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) is a jointly funded program between the Australian Government and state and territory (state) governments, through which the Australian Government provides financial assistance to support state governments with disaster recovery costs. Eligible costs include:

- Assistance measures for individuals and families, businesses, primary producers, non-profit organisations and local and state governments.

Under these arrangements, state governments determine what assistance measures will be activated, and the areas in which they will be made available. The Australian Government may then reimburse state governments for up to 75 per cent of these costs. State governments are responsible for administering the DRFA assistance measures.

DRFA ASSISTANCE MEASURES (as activated by the NSW Government)

Assistance for individuals

Flood Recovery Centres: Dedicated community recovery centres provide face-to-face support for NSW residents affected by natural disasters, click here to find locations - <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/floods/recovery-centres>

Immediate assistance: This assistance is intended to meet the essential emergency needs of people who are directly affected by the disaster and have no other means of meeting their immediate needs (such as evacuees who are unable to access their personal finances or arrange alternative forms of assistance). The assistance may be provided during and in the days after the disaster. Assistance is provided through in-kind direct material aid e.g. emergency accommodation or small cash payments to purchase essential items. Immediate assistance is generally provided from evacuation or recovery centres.

The Commonwealth Government has activated the Disaster Recovery Payment and the Disaster Recovery Allowance to support communities in [Natural Disaster Declared LGA's](#).

The Disaster Recovery Payment: a one-off, non-means tested payment of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child and is available to eligible people in those affected LGAs who have suffered a significant loss, including a severely damaged or destroyed home or serious injury.

The Disaster Recovery Allowance: assists employees and sole traders who experience a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster. DRA is payable for a maximum of 13 weeks and is taxable.

- The easiest and **quickest way to claim the Disaster Recovery Payment and Disaster Recovery Allowance is online** through myGov. If you require support to claim, please call the Australian Government Emergency Information Line on 180 22 66. People who have more immediate priorities in these local government areas have 6 months to claim payments.



- Online claiming via myGov is available 24x7. The Australian Government Emergency Information Line is open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm local time. For more information on support available, visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/disaster
- To find out if your LGA has a **Natural Disaster Declaration** click on the link www.nsw.gov.au/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster-declarations

Grants for essential household contents: These grants will assist with the cost of replacing household items essential to maintaining a basic standard of living. Examples of essential household contents include bedding, furniture, clothing, and essential electrical items (e.g. refrigerator, washing machine, stove). These grants assist low-income residents, not covered by insurance, who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event. Grants are subject to income and assets testing. The amount of assistance provided depends on the assessed needs of the affected household and the number and type of items that have been damaged.

Grants for essential structural repairs to homes: These grants provide a contribution toward essential structural repairs to low income home owners who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event, and who are not covered by insurance. Grants are subject to income and assets testing. The amount of assistance provided depends on an assessment of structural repairs required and the number of occupants in the home.

- **State administering agency: Resilience NSW**
- **Enquiry contact: Service NSW on 13 77 88.**

Property Assessment and Demolition Program: This measure will provide assessments of properties and undertake demolition of those found to be uninhabitable as a result of the disaster.

- **State administering agency: Department of Regional NSW**
- **Enquiry contact: Individuals can register for this program on the Service NSW website:**

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-flood-recovery-property-assessment-and-demolition-pad-program>

Assistance for primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations

Recovery Grants for primary producers: Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to primary producers that have suffered direct damage to help cover eligible clean-up and reinstatement costs. The grants can be used for a range of activities including removing debris, cleaning-up, repairing damaged fencing and equipment, replacing livestock, salvaging crops and restoring fields. **(ONLY IF CATEGORY D Declared LGA)**

- **State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority**
- **Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.**

As the flood response continues, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services are encouraging flood-affected landholders to request assistance through the Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline. Landholders can request emergency fodder for livestock, animal assessment, veterinary advice and if required, euthanasia and burial.

- **Call** 1800 814 647 (operating daily 8am to 8pm) or
- **Email** aasfa@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au



The Rural Landholders Grant is available to eligible landholders and oyster farmers who were affected by the NSW severe weather and floods that occurred from **22 February 2022 onwards**, and who are not eligible for existing flood support programs (Primary Producer Special Disaster Grants). Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for landholders and oyster farmers in declared Local Government Areas (LGAs), who have:

- holdings of at least 10ha of rural land,
- or a Class A aquaculture permit authorising at least 1ha
- and receive at least \$20,000 in income from primary production per annum.

Applications for the RLG program are open until 30 June 2023. All activities and expenditure funded under this program must be complete, and all invoices to claim payment must be submitted to the RAA by 30 September 2023.

Once approved, eligible primary producers can access \$5,000 in assistance up-front, with a further \$20,000 in financial assistance available thereafter upon submission of valid tax invoices.

- **State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority**
- **Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.**

Landholders are encouraged not to self-assess and to apply for the scheme so the RAA can determine eligibility.

Rural Financial Counselling Service. The RFC's help primary producers, fishers and small rural businesses. The service is free and the Counsellors and organisation are professional, independent and discreet. Your confidentiality is assured. (NB its not emotional counselling, an RFC will help you get organised financially). [Home - Rural Financial Counselling Service \(rfcsnr.org.au\)](http://rfcsnr.org.au) or phone 1800 344 090.

Please report primary production damage online at

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/emergency/community/primary-industries-natural-disaster-damage-survey>

The primary industries natural disaster damage survey is a simple online survey Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS) staff, farmers and agricultural industry representatives can use to record damage to primary production and animals from natural disasters such as floods, fires and storms. The damage survey allows you to:

- complete a simple survey the number of crops, animals, infrastructure and other primary industries damaged in a single event
- add photos to the assessment
- see the severity of damage in your area.

DPI can view survey information in real time and results are used to determine:

- the area the natural disaster has impacted and the scale of the event
- the severity of the impact
- the value of impact to primary production
- where and what assistance or resources may be needed.

This source of “ground truth” information helps the Government and communities understand the scale and regional distribution of the impact of a disaster on agriculture and target resources and assistance in an area.

Recovery Grants for small businesses and non-profit organisations: Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to small businesses and non-profit organisations that have suffered direct damage to help cover eligible clean-



up and reinstatement costs. The grants can be used for a range of activities including removing damaged goods, cleaning-up, repairing damaged fittings and equipment and replacing stock.

- **State administering agency: Service NSW**
- **Enquiry contact: Service NSW on 13 77 88.**

Concessional interest rate loans (direct damage) to small businesses and primary producers: Loans of up to \$130,000 at a fixed concessional interest rate may be available to small businesses and primary producers (subject to certain eligibility criteria) that have been directly impacted by a disaster. These loans may be used to meet carry-on requirements or to repair or replace damaged property not covered by insurance.

- **State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority**
- **Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.**

Freight subsidies for primary producers: Transport freight subsidies of up to 50 per cent on the carriage of livestock and fodder, and 25 per cent on the carriage of fodder for dairy cattle, are available to help primary producers. The maximum subsidy available is \$15,000 per annum.

- **State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority**
- **Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593**

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) It is important to be aware, learn and prepare.

FMD is a serious and highly contagious animal disease that affects all cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, deer and pigs. Cloven-hoofed animals are those with divided hooves. It does not affect horses or zebras.

FMD is a disease of animals, not humans and is a different disease than Hand, foot, and mouth disease which is common in young children. FMD is not transmitted to humans by eating affected meat.

FMD virus is carried by live animals and in meat and dairy products, as well as in soil, bones, untreated hides, vehicles and equipment used with these animals. It can also be carried on people's clothing and footwear and survive in frozen, chilled and freeze-dried foods.

If your livestock are showing signs of foot-and-mouth disease, immediately call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/fmd

VARROA MITE ALERT. The NSW DPI has detected **varroa mite**, which is confirmed as Varroa destructor, in biosecurity surveillance hives at the Port of Newcastle. Here's the link to information - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa> If you have bee colonies or hives in the Notification zone, Eradication or Surveillance zone, you must tell NSW DPI where they are. This includes queen bees in cages and packaged bees.

If you find varroa mite in a hive you are responsible for, notify NSW DPI by:

- Completing the [Report a Biosecurity Concern form \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/report-a-biosecurity-concern)
- Calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline, 1800 084 881 (9am to 5pm, 7 days a week)
- Emailing hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Concessional interest rate loans (direct damage) and grants to non-profit organisations:



Assistance to sporting and recreation clubs: A special scheme is available to assist sporting and recreation clubs in meeting the costs of restoration of essential club facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. The assistance is only made available to clubs that do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources, and who are unable to obtain assistance through normal channels, but that have the capacity to repay any loan that may be granted. The maximum assistance available is \$12,000, including a grant of up to \$2,000 and the balance by way of repayable advance with interest.

- **State administering agency: NSW Treasury**
- **Enquiry contact: NSW Treasury on 02 9228 4380.**

Loans to non-profit organisations: Loan assistance is available to voluntary non-profit organisations for the restoration of essential facilities that have been damaged or destroyed. Assistance is only available to those organisations that do not have the financial capacity to meet restoration costs from their own resources or insurance and are unable to obtain assistance through normal channels. Advances are subject to a maximum of \$25,000 at a concessional interest rate per annum.

- **State administering agency: NSW Rural Assistance Authority**
- **Enquiry contact: NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.**

If you are a **sole trader, the owner of a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW**, you may be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate of \$1500. www.service.nsw.gov.au/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate

Clean-up Package: A clean-up package to assist households, businesses, primary producers and local councils affected by the floods. The clean-up covers both insured and uninsured properties and assists with the clean-up and restoration of flood damaged, priority environmental assets.

- **State administering agency: NSW Environmental Protection Authority and Public Works Advisory**
- **Enquiry contact: contact the Environment Line on 131 555 or email info@epa.nsw.gov.au**

Other assistance

Aussie Helpers - Katie O'Brien

M: 0428 434 527 **P:** 1300 665 232

Email: katie@aussiehelpers.org.au

Website: www.aussiehelpers.org.au

Rural Aid - Register so they know what type of support you need, fodder, water, counselling, Farm Army volunteers and more - www.ruralaid.org.au or phone 1300 327 624.

Assistance available in your area [Recovery Connect](#)

Lions Need for Feed. Register here www.needforfeed.org

If you're concerned about your own or someone else's mental health, call the NSW **Mental Health Line** on 1800 011 511 for advice or **Head to Health** at www.headtohealth.gov.au

ATO flood assistance If you're facing problems meeting your tax obligations due to flooding call 1800 806 218

