

# Drought household assistance

## WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

Drought household assistance grants are available for household support which includes, but is not limited to:

- food, clothing and other household items
- telephone and electricity accounts
- medical expenses
- fresh water for household purposes
- fuel/motor vehicle expenses
- minimum credit card payments.

## This grant is not available for:

- farm operating expenses
- business debt servicing
- purchase and transport of fodder
- stock water.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE?

Rural families and individuals who:

- are currently disadvantaged by the drought, and
- live in a Rural Land Protection Board Area that is drought declared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, but is not a Commonwealth Exceptional Circumstance declared area.

There are three categories under which you may be eligible.

### Category 1 – Farm households

Farm households are eligible for assistance if they are:

- reliant on their property for a substantial proportion of gross income, generally at least 30 per cent
- have insufficient income and/or cash reserves to meet basic living needs.

Applicants who are in receipt of any Centrelink allowance or pension are not eligible for assistance under the Scheme unless:

- they are waiting for a Centrelink allowance to commence, or
- they have only recently received a Centrelink allowance, and
- the Centrelink allowance will not be sufficient to clear debts accumulated as a result of the drought.

In most cases, only one application per household will be considered in each financial year up to a limit of \$2,000.

### Category 2 – Non-farm households

Non-farm households are eligible to apply for assistance if they are:

- a) directly dependent on primary production and as a result of the drought have insufficient income and/or cash reserves to meet basic living needs – e.g. shearers, farm labourers, fencing contractors and mulesers
- b) indirectly dependent on a drought effected rural economy and as a result of the drought they have insufficient income and/or cash reserves to meet basic living needs – e.g. farm business contractors and livestock transporters.

Only one application per household will be considered up to a limit of \$2,000.

Applicants who have had previous assistance under Category 2A and 2B are not eligible to apply again.

### Category 3 – Low income rural households

Assistance is available under this category to help meet the cost of purchasing household water because the tank water that the household would normally rely on has run out due to low or no rainfall.

Applicants are eligible for assistance if they are a low income rural household which relies on tank water for their household needs because they are not connected to a town water supply.

Applicants are able to make multiple applications for assistance under this category. The maximum assistance provided for each application is \$400.

## WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information please contact:

**Community Services  
Disaster Welfare Services  
Locked Bag 4028  
Ashfield NSW 2131  
Phone: 1800 018 444  
Fax: 02 9716 2400**