

## Drought support package – south west Victoria

The Victorian Government is providing direct drought support of \$144 million for farmers across Victoria impacted by drought conditions. Additional support is being provided to farmers and communities in 12 south west Victoria Local Government Areas including parts of West Wimmera, which have been experiencing the worst drought conditions in the state for more than 2 years. To stay up to date with all drought programs, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought).

### FARM DROUGHT SUPPORT GRANTS\*



Up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) statewide and in the 12 eligible LGAs in south west Victoria up to \$10,000 (ex-GST), to support investment in on-farm drought management activities and essential business activities. A dollar-for-dollar co-contribution is required. Eligible expenses since 30 September 2024 considered. \*NB: formerly the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant Program. Scan the QR code to check your eligibility and apply.

### ONE-ON-ONE FARM ADVISORY SERVICE



A free consultation with a farm advisor to take stock, discuss and plan the best way forward for your business. Nominate your preferred consultant from a panel of providers for a 3-hour consultation (on-farm or virtually) and a follow up call.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the program and to express your interest.

### FARMER GROUP TECHNICAL EVENTS



Local workshops and online sessions to talk drought management, delivered with our partners.

Scan the QR code for events in your area.

### HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM



Up to \$1,000 in financial assistance is available to help with household expenses of eligible farming families, those working on farms and contractors affected by drought conditions in 12 south west LGAs. The program is being administered by the Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA).

Scan the QR code for information on how to apply.

### PRIMARY PRODUCER SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Twelve south west LGAs have received lump sum payments to support primary producers equivalent of up to a 40% farm property rate reduction for 2025–26. Councils are responsible for distributing these payments, with reductions applied to rate notices. **Contact your local council.**

### DROUGHT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins CMAs are delivering a program to provide meaningful off-farm employment opportunities to people experiencing hardship due to drought conditions. The program will focus on improving catchment health through activities like pest and weed control, riparian fencing and revegetation. **Contact the Corangamite or Glenelg-Hopkins CMAs for more information about the program.**

## LOOK OVER THE FARM GATE – CLOSED



The 'Look Over the Farm Gate' mental health and wellbeing grant program **is now fully subscribed**. It provided grants of up to \$5,000 support local organisations to create events and initiatives tailored to their unique community. The program is managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health. **All approved projects will be supported through to 30 April 2026**. Scan the QR code for more information.

## RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE (RFCS) VICTORIA WEST



In addition to the ongoing rural financial counselling services always available statewide, a Wellbeing Counsellor and a Small Business Financial Counsellor are also available at **RFCS Victoria West** to support severely impacted farmers and small businesses in south west Victoria. Scan the QR code for more information.

## DUTIES AND FEES RELIEF PACKAGE



Agriculture Victoria is working with food and safety regulators Dairy Foods Safety Victoria, PrimeSafe, the State Revenue Office and the livestock advisory committees to deliver this support. The package includes measures to waive a raft of livestock biosecurity duties, plant biosecurity fees, beekeeper registration fees, food safety fees and other service charges, delivering more than \$10 million in relief to Victorian producers. Scan the QR code below for information on specific duty and fee relief.

## INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF HAY AND FODDER AND FREIGHT NETWORK



A dedicated network to support fodder and grain movements on key freight routes in south west Victoria, permitting loads of up to 84 tonnes – a 15-tonne increase on the usual limit on these routes. Suppliers, transporters and farmers can now apply for a free **Plant Biosecurity Permit**, with applications processed within 2 working days, with inspection fees waived (where required upon arrival). Scan the QR code for information on permit requirements, application forms, and the

Victorian Freight Drought Network.

## ON-FARM KANGAROO CONTROL REBATE PROGRAM



The On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program is open for farmers to hire authorised professional harvesters to help control kangaroos. Farmers with an approved authority to control wildlife (ATCW) can access up to 3 individual rebates of up to \$450 (ex-GST) each, noting farmers are required to co-contribute 25% to the cost. Scan the QR code for more information about the program.

## OTHER: COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Programs and services are available to help farmers impacted by drought. These include the Farm Household Allowance, Rural Financial Counselling Service, concessional loans and tax concessions.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

For more information about drought support visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought),

Email [drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au) or Phone 136 186.