

Wednesday 1 August 2018

DROUGHT PACKAGE TO BRING SOME RELIEF TO OUR FARMERS

Narrandera Shire Council has welcomed the announcement of a further \$500 million of support for farmers through the NSW Government's Emergency Drought Relief Package, bringing the total to over \$1 billion.

The last few months have been some of the driest on record, 99 percent of NSW has now become drought stricken with severe impact across our region. Crops are struggling, water shortages are starting to impact and fodder to sustain livestock is running out.

Mayor Kschenka said of the announcement, "This package will bring vital relief to our local farmers struggling to continue productivity in their businesses. While our shire is not the worst hit area of NSW nevertheless many of our farmers are doing it pretty tough."

"The Council is very appreciative of the State Government's decision to allocate the additional funds to the Drought Relief Package. Farmers concerns have been heard and the Government has responded, acknowledging the importance of the rural sector to the economy."

"Droughts like these affect the business community in the western NSW towns just as much as the farmers and support packages are vital if normal operations are to be sustained"

Member for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke has strongly lobbied for this outcome.

The additional \$500 million Emergency Relief Package will provide:

- Approximately \$190 million for Drought Transport Subsidies which will be back-dated to include an additional prorated amount for expenses incurred in the previous six months;
- Up to 50% of the full cost of transporting fodder, livestock to agistment, slaughter, sale and water for stock will be made available to eligible farmers;
- Waived Local Land Services annual rates, fixed water charges in rural and regional areas, as well as class 1 agricultural vehicle registration;
- Support services including counselling and mental health;
- Community assistance including water cartage and drought-related road infrastructure improvements;
- Animal welfare and stock disposal.

The Government will also allocate an additional \$150 million to the Farm Innovation Fund, reflecting significant uptake by farmers across the State.

MEDIA RELEASE

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority will begin processing applications from Monday August 6. For more information on the NSW Government's emergency drought relief package visit www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au.

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Precis or Summary: Drought Package To Bring Some Relief To Our Farmers			
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