

Support package Q&As

What support has been announced?

- A support package of close to \$20 million has been announced for our farmers.
- This will include primary producer clean-up relief grants of \$10,000 for farmers directly impacted by flooding.
- We are also activating category B assistance under the National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This will provide concessional loans as well as transport subsidies.
- Free financial counselling will be available through the Rural Financial Counselling Service.
- More information on support can be found at ruralfinance.com.au

Who can access this support?

- The support announced today can be accessed by directly impacted primary producers, including horse husbandry, agistment, training, breeding and stud operations.
- They must be located in a flood-impacted area and derive at least 50 per cent of their gross income from primary production in an average year or derive over \$75,000 gross income from primary production.

What is included in the Primary Producer Clean-up and Relief Grants?

- \$10,000 grants are available to primary producers that are directly impacted by flooding.
- Grants are provided to help pay for the costs of the clean-up and relief needs so they can get their business up and running again.
- This can cover a range of activities and items including removing and disposing of debris, and rubbish, repairing damaged equipment and fencing as well as purchasing fodder, water and water storage.
- More information is available at ruralfinance.com.au

What will the Primary Producer Concessional Loans cover?

- Concessional loans of up to \$250,000 are available to support primary producers directly impacted by the floods.
- The loans are intended to be used for the purposes of restoring and/or replacing damaged assets and/or to meet working capital expenses.

What can be claimed through the Primary Producer Transport Subsidies?

- Flood-affected primary producers can claim up to \$15,000 to support the transport of emergency fodder to flood-affected properties; stock to agistment, sale, or slaughter and transport of emergency stock drinking water.
- Up to 50% of costs can be claimed for a maximum of 1500 kilometres per movement, or a maximum of 500 kilometres for water movement.

Who is eligible for free financial counselling?

- The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides free financial counselling to farmers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and harvesters, and small related businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship.
- We are providing additional funding to them so they can meet increased demand.

What mental health support will be provided to farmers?

- \$500,000 will be provided to support targeted mental health support for Victorian farmers, recognising the impacts this flooding event will have on them.
- The Victorian Government will partner with the National Centre for Farmer Health to deliver this support.