



Bushfire Assistance

The Mid-Coast Council area has been declared a natural disaster area. This means that assistance is available to help the communities and individuals directly affected by the bush fires. To support relief and recovery a range of measures have been made available by the State and Federal governments by way of grants, subsidies and low interest loans.

The Australian Taxation Office has announced that it will grant a two month lodgement and payment deferral to taxpayers impacted by the bushfires. The quarterly business activity statement that was due for lodgement and payment through us on 25 November is now due on 28 January 2020. If you have lost tax records / source documents due to fire please contact us so that we can assist in reconstructing your records or apply for a further extension for lodgements.

Payment deferrals are also available through us as your registered Tax/BAS agent.

- For quarterly BAS due on 28 November 2019, the new deferred date is 28 January 2020
- For monthly BAS due 21 November 2019, the new deferred date is 21 January 2020
- For monthly BAS due 21 December 2019, the new deferred date is 21 January 2020.

The Tax Office has also advised that if your business or residential address is in one of the identified impacted postcodes, that refunds due will be fast tracked automatically.

These arrangements are in line with the financial assistance made available through Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments (AGDRP).

Deferrals do not apply to large withholders (that is, those who have previously withheld more than \$1 million annually or are part of a corporate group that has).

Employers will still need to meet their superannuation guarantee obligations for their employees. The law prevents variation of the contribution due date or waiver of the Superannuation Guarantee Charge on late super guarantee payments.

Monthly GST credits

Businesses that are making purchases in coming months to replace stock and other losses may wish to continue to lodge and pay as normal, or elect to change the GST reporting cycle they use to report and pay GST monthly in order to get quicker access to net amount refunds.

Changing your GST reporting cycle to monthly does not require you to change your PAYG withholding reporting cycle. You can manage this by specifying the roles you are changing.

You cannot change your election back to quarterly until 12 months after you elected to change to monthly. However, if your GST turnover is more than \$20 million you must pay and report monthly.

If you are registered for fuel tax credits, electing to change your GST reporting from quarterly to monthly will mean that you also need to claim your fuel tax credits monthly. You can change your GST reporting cycle through us as your Tax/ BAS agent, or by phoning the ATO on 137226.

If further extensions are required for tax liabilities, please contact the Tax Office directly on 132866. You will need to have your tax file number and a reference number from a notice of assessment or document id from an activity statement to identify yourself before your affairs can be discussed with an officer. Alternatively, you can contact our office and we can liaise with the Tax Office on your behalf.

Below are some of the services that we are aware of currently providing assistance:-

- **Centrelink** can provide assistance for self-employed people affected by the bushfires through their Disaster Recovery Allowance

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/nsw-bushfires-september-2019-disaster-recovery-allowance>

- **BlazeAid** - a group dedicated to assisting with rural fencing repairs – A link to their website and services provided is included below. Currently they have a camp set up in Wingham for our local Primary Producers that may require assistance

<https://blazeaid.com.au/>

- **Ruralaid** – a Queensland based initiative providing a once off amount of \$1500 towards bill payment. Available to verified Primary Producers in drought affected areas.

<https://www.ruralaid.org.au/>

- **NSW Rural Assistance Authority** – The NSW RAA administers financial assistance programs including transport subsidies for animal welfare and natural disasters to primary produces on behalf of both the NSW and Australian Governments Refer to following link for a list of grants, subsidies and loans currently available.

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants>

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans>

If you are an employer, Fair Work has an information sheet available for download from their website, detailing employee entitlements during natural disasters and emergencies.

<https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/fact-sheets/rights-and-obligations/employment-conditions-during-natural-disasters-and-emergencies>

We wish to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to those involved in firefighting and other volunteer capacities and our support to those that have lost property and stock.

Please contact our office if you require further information or assistance

Taree: 6552 3533 or Forster: 6554 7566





Choose the right LOAN for your needs

This information is current as at 21 October 2019

www.raa.nsw.gov.au

	Drought	Infrastructure		Natural Disaster Loans		
Loan Features	Drought Assistance Fund	Farm innovation Fund	Seafood Innovation Fund	Primary Producers & Small Business Operators	Not for Profit Organisations	Sporting & Recreational Clubs
Purpose of loan	Interest free loans to cover 100% of costs (GST exclusive) to assist with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport of Stock, Fodder and/or water Fodder & Water Infrastructure Banking of Genetic Material. Activities that promote profitability and resilience as a result of the on-farm investment 	To meet the cost of carrying out permanent capital works that fall in to 4 main categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparedness Environmental Farm Infrastructure Natural Resources. 	To meet the cost of carrying out permanent capital works in these four key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparedness Environment Fishing & Aquaculture Farming Equipment & Assets Transport & Logistics 	To meet the essential working capital required to continue operations and the replacement and repair of damage caused to property and associated improvements not covered by insurance.	To meet the restoration of essential facilities, equipment or other assets that have been damaged or destroyed.	
Maximum amount available	\$50,000 in 2018/19 \$50,000 in 2019/20	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$130,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
Current Interest Rate	Interest Free	2.5% fixed	2.50% fixed	0.82% fixed	0.82% fixed	0.82% fixed
Loan term	7 years	Up to 20 years	Up to 20 years	Up to 10 years preceded by 2 years repayment free	Up to 5 years	Up to 5 years
Repayment	2 years repayment free from fully drawn date and then up to 5 years of principal only repayments	Principal + Interest	Principal + Interest	Principal + Interest	Principal + Interest	Principal + Interest
Repayment Frequency	Monthly, half yearly, quarterly or annually	Monthly, half yearly, quarterly or annually	Monthly, half yearly	Monthly, half yearly, quarterly or annually	Monthly, half yearly, quarterly or annually	Monthly
Security	Statutory First Charge and Registered Caveat over property	Statutory First Charge and Registered Caveat over property	Statutory First Charge and Registered Caveat	Registered Mortgage over land	Registered Mortgage over land	Agreement from Committee Members that loan will be repaid
Establishment costs (registering security, title searches)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Ongoing fees and other charges	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗
Extra repayments available (without incurring additional cost)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓



Choose the right GRANT for your needs

This information is current as at 21 October 2019

Grant Features	Drought		Transport			Farm Business Skills		
	Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate	Emergency Drought Relief Transport Subsidy	Natural Disaster	Animal Welfare	Donated Fodder	Pre - Approval	Reimbursement	Course Provider
Purpose	Rebate of 25% of costs incurred from 1st July 2018 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New purchases, installation of pipes, Water storages and water pumps, De-silting dams, Associated power supplies. 	Subsidy up to 50% of the full cost of freight up to a maximum//km/journey (see Guidelines). Transport of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock to/from agistment, Stock to sale/slaughter Transport of fodder Transport of stock & domestic (household) drinking water. From 1st July also includes transport of farm chemicals, fertiliser and seed to farms. 	Available to farmers affected by a declared natural disaster event. Transport of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock to/from agistment, Stock to sale/slaughter , Transport of fodder, Transport of water. 	Available where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals are at significant risk There is little or no feed/ water available, including both pasture and stored fodder, Animals leave the farming enterprise permanently, The business demonstrates a significant financial need. 	Available for transporting donated fodder organised by community groups to a central location for distribution to properties affected by drought and other emergencies.	Available to provide access to vocational and skills training in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk management Financial management Business management Succession planning. 		Education and service providers can apply to be listed as a pre-approved course on the RAA website.
Maximum amount available	\$25,000 per farm business.	\$40,000 per farm business.	\$15,000 per financial year.	\$20,000 per financial year. Limited with \$500,000 available in each financial year.	Limited with \$500,000 available in each financial year.	\$5000 for the first individual. Additional \$1000 available per person for a maximum of four people for a total maximum of \$9000 per farm business.		Assessed on case by case basis.
Availability	<u>Opened:</u> 14 January 2019 <u>Closes:</u> 30 June 2021 or when funding is exhausted	<u>Opened:</u> 1 July 2019 <u>Closes:</u> 30 June 2020.	Available in the event of a declared natural disaster.	Always available.	Always available.	<u>Opened:</u> 2 November 2015 <u>Closes:</u> 30 June 2020		
Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online
More information	https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au							