

Drought assistance

Queensland Government assistance for farm businesses, households and communities affected by the current severe drought



Primary producers who are not in a drought declared area and believe they are experiencing drought conditions, can apply for an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration. An IDP gives the same access to Queensland Government drought assistance as an area declaration.

Support measures

Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS)

DRAS provides subsidies on the transport of fodder and water for livestock during drought, returning stock from agistment and restocking in the recovery period, as well as the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate for the establishment of water infrastructure for emergency animal welfare needs.

Land rent subsidies

Landholders of rural leases (being Category 11 leases used for grazing and primary production) issued under the *Land Act 1994* are eligible for a rebate if they are in a drought-declared area or have an IDP. Landholders who are eligible for the rebate have it automatically applied to their annual or quarterly invoices, along with information about the rebate.

Water licence waivers

Annual water licence fees are being waived for Queensland producers whose properties are in drought-declared areas or have an IDP. Affected producers will be advised of the waiver by letter. Fees for all new water licence applications for stock and domestic water in all drought-declared areas in Queensland are also waived. This includes properties with an IDP.

Relief from electricity charges for irrigators with fixed electricity charges

The Drought Relief from Electricity Charges Scheme (DRECS) provides relief from supply charges on electricity accounts that are used to pump water for farm or irrigation purposes. Producers can apply for a waiver or reimbursement of supply charges on all relevant electricity accounts.

Transport concessions and school transport allowance

These transport-related drought assistance measures include:

- permits for increasing the maximum hay loading height
- concessions on shifting droughted livestock
- waivers and greater flexibility on certain vehicle registration conditions and fees and charges
- increased school transport allowances for some families that drive their children to school or connect with a school bus run.

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Tackling Regional Adversity through Integrated Care (TRAIC) is designed to support the community to a sustained ability to withstand and recover from adverse circumstances such as droughts. TRAIC provides clinician and grants to locally-based providers.

Royal Flying Doctor Service's Drought Well-being Service counselling and support to people living and working in areas impacted by drought, providing mental health clinicians via telehealth or at primary healthcare clinics.

Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme providing loans at concessional rates of interest to existing primary producers and to those looking to enter the primary production industry or enhance primary production enterprise.

Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP) aims to improve drought preparedness and resilience for Queensland producers by delivering a range of research, development and extension projects to improve seasonal forecasting and decision-making.

Contact information

For more information on drought assistance programs, visit daf.qld.gov.au/drought or call 13 25 23.

For information about drought declared areas, visit longpaddock.qld.gov.au.

For information on Australian Government drought support visit agriculture.gov.au/drought or call 1800 900 090.