

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Friday, 18 October 2024

ON-FARM DROUGHT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS PROGRAM OPEN

South west Victorian farmers impacted by the current drought conditions can now apply for on-farm grants to help manage and withstand current seasonal conditions and prepare their businesses for the future.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the opening of the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants Program that will provide financial assistance to farmers managing current drought conditions and build farm business preparedness and resilience for the future.

Eligible farmers can apply for co-contribution grants of up to \$5,000 for on-farm improvements including water infrastructure upgrades, stock containment areas, grain and fodder storage and drought management tools.

The \$12.1 million grants program is open to farmers in Local Government Areas in the south west that have been most severely impacted by ongoing drought conditions.

These Local Government Areas include Glenelg, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool, Moyne, Corangamite, Colac Otway, Surf Coast, Ararat, Pyrenees, Golden Plains and Greater Geelong, as well as the southern half of West Wimmera Shire.

These grants are part of a \$13.53 million Drought Support Package which also includes a \$1.43 million investment in farmer wellbeing, technical decision-making advice and a dedicated Regional Drought Coordinator who will help ensure support is reaching those who need it.

The grants build on the existing support services available for farmers including the Rural Financial Counselling Service, The National Centre for Farmer Health, farmer workshops, field days and practical information on the Agriculture Victoria website.

To attend an upcoming drop-in session being held across the south-west visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or phone 136 186.

For more information on the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants Program, including the specific areas of eligibility, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call them on 1800 260 425 during business hours.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

“Many farmers in Victoria’s south west are facing drought conditions and I strongly encourage farmers to apply for an infrastructure grant and take advantage of the additional supports that are available.”

“We’re investing \$12.1 million into on-farm infrastructure to ensure south west farmers are better prepared to withstand the effects of current and future drought conditions.”

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora

“We’re supporting our farmers and local communities when they need it most with practical support to deal with the current drought conditions and to withstand future conditions.”

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