

The On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants

On 30 April 2020, the Victorian Government announced changes to the On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants program.

The On-Farm Drought Resilience Grant program assists eligible farm businesses to invest in on-farm drought preparedness and seek business advice.

The maximum value of the On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants has increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to boost farmers' access to professional services whilst still enabling farmers to invest in drought preparedness infrastructure.

Eligible farm businesses can now apply for:

- Up to \$5,000 for business decision making activities (with no-contribution required)
- Up to \$5,000 for infrastructure investments (with at least 50 per cent co-contribution required)

Farmers who have already received the On-Farm Drought Resilience Grant can reapply for further funding to top up their grant up to a total of \$5,000 for business decision making activities and \$5,000 for infrastructure investments.

Farm businesses can now benefit from investment in more infrastructure improvements.

There are three new eligible infrastructure investments under the On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants program, including:

- **Mobile phone booster technologies**, such as signal boosters, to improve connectivity for farmers and access internet-based information and support services.
- **Weed control**, such as purchase of registered herbicide, to support maintenance of healthy pastures and to protect environmental assets.
- **Soil moisture probes** as an explicit investment under soil moisture monitoring activities.

Farmers in East Gippsland and Wellington Shires that are also impacted by the bushfires will be able to reapply for the grant where their previously funded investment was destroyed or damaged.

An amendment has been made to the guidelines so that:

- Infrastructure activities previously funded through the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants or the Pasture Recovery and Management Grants that have been destroyed or damaged by bushfires are eligible activities to be re-funded so they can be repaired or replaced.
- Infrastructure investments that were funded through the On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants that have been destroyed or damaged by bushfires can be re-funded with another application so they can be repaired or replaced.

These changes should be read in conjunction with On-Farm Drought Resilience Grants program guidelines.

For more information and to apply, contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au

For more information on other support available, contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186, drought.support@agriculture.vic.gov.au or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

ACCESSIBILITY

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