

Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier



Monday, 30 September 2024

BACKING FARMERS DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The Allan Labor Government is backing farmers impacted by drought conditions in Victoria's south west with a package of support to deliver on-farm infrastructure grants and increase the region's resilience into the future.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the \$13.53 million package to help farmers in 11 south west Local Government Areas of Glenelg, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool, Moyne, Corangamite, Colac Otway, Surf Coast, West Wimmera, Ararat, Pyrenees and Golden Plains.

Right now, farmers in Victoria's south west are facing the lowest rainfall on record, which is impacting stock and harvest and putting pressure on feed and water.

That's why the Government will invest \$12.1 million to help farmers prepare their properties for increasing dry conditions.

Eligible farmers will receive up to \$5,000 as a co-contribution grant to support water infrastructure upgrades to pipes, tanks, troughs, dams, stock containment areas, and grain and fodder storage.

The package also includes a \$1.43 million investment in counseling and advice for farmers experiencing financial and emotional distress to help them make informed financial decisions and safeguard their wellbeing. A dedicated Drought Regional Coordinator will be also appointed to make sure support is reaching people effectively.

The support package builds on the existing support available for farmers to prepare for and respond to drought, including through providers such as the National Centre for Farmer Health, farmer workshops and field days, and a database of practical information on the Agriculture Victoria website.

The Victorian Budget 2024/25 invested \$59.8 million to help farmers become drought resilient and develop sustainable irrigation practices – in addition to supporting them to prepare for future droughts in partnership with the Commonwealth Government through the \$20.4 million in the Future Drought Fund.

For more information on the Drought Support Package visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

Quote attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"Farmers in Victoria's south west are facing the lowest rainfall on record, and we're stepping in to support them."

"Victorians are proud of our world-class produce, and we'll always support our world-class producers".

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"I've heard directly from farmers in the south west about the impact drought conditions are having on our communities, and this package will drive the long term resilience the south west needs."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora

"The impact of droughts are affecting our farming communities in the south west – we're supporting our farmers and local communities by providing practical assistance and support to ensure their long term sustainability."

Media contact: Zoe McLaughlin 0474 593 035 | zoe.mclaughlin@minstaff.vic.gov.au