

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Community Sport

Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Wednesday, 1 October 2025

CASH BACK INTO THE POCKETS OF DROUGHT-AFFECTED FARMERS

The Allan Labor Government is driving down business costs for Victorian primary producers and providing critical cash flow help for drought affected farmers.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the rollout of the Duties and Fees Relief Package, which will waive fees for farmers over the next financial year and deliver more than \$10 million in relief to Victorian producers.

To relieve the financial pressure for farmers across the state, livestock duties will be waived in Victoria for the sale of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs until 30 September 2026. This means that any producer who would normally be required to pay livestock duties is exempt.

Primary producers will no longer have to pay standard order processing fees for NLIS tags until 30 June 2026 – the cost of the tags will still be required. All other livestock fees will be frozen at the same rate as last financial year.

Beekeepers won't have to pay their two-year registration fee for their hives until 30 September 2027.

Dairy farmers will receive a discount on their 2025/26 licence fees which will be reflected in their milk payments from dairy manufacturers. Dairy farmers don't have to apply as DFSV is working directly with manufacturers to apply the discount.

PrimeSafe, Victoria's regulator for commercial abattoirs and meat productions, will provide drought-affected primary producers with a relief payment if they hold both a PrimeSafe Licence and a Property Identification Code (PIC).

Biosecurity Victoria is waiving fees for nursery and horticulture producers for this financial year, including the service fees for arrangement applications, arrangement audits, verification inspections, area and property freedom approvals, and related travel costs. Other plant biosecurity services fees for 2025/26 will remain at the same rate as 2024/25.

Food safety registration fees will be waived for horticulture and crop producers in the 12 south west Local Government Areas (LGA) currently experiencing the worst drought conditions. For all other primary producers outside these 12 LGAs the fees will be capped at the same rate as 2024/25.

This is part of the Labor Government's \$144 million Drought Support Package which is making sure our state's world-class agriculture industry can get through these difficult times – protecting our farming families, our food supply and the jobs and communities that rely on it.

For more information on the duties and fees covered by this package, and the full range of supports available to drought-affected farmers and communities, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or phone 136 186.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"The duties and fee relief program will put cash back into the pockets of drought-affected farmers to help them manage cashflow challenges."

"We know these administrative costs can add up and we thank the regulatory bodies and livestock committees working together with us to support farmers during these difficult times."