

2016 TASMANIAN FLOODS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE



Your Levy at Work



This fact sheet outlines different assistance measures available to Tasmanian dairy producers in the aftermath of June 2016 Floods.

If my property has been affected what should I be doing?

- Try to focus on your priorities by writing a quick checklist of all the jobs that come to mind – classifying them by what needs to be done today, this week and later in the month. Download your Dairy Australia 'recovery priority list' [here](#).
- Take photos of the damage on your property to build up an inventory of losses (i.e. pumps, fencing, feed, etc).
- *DairyTas* are currently assisting with damage reports on behalf of affected dairy producers to provide to the State Government. Accurate and timely information will help secure the best possible level of disaster assistance. If you have not already been contacted, report any damage to DairyTas via (03) 6432 2233.
- Keep all your receipts associated with recovery efforts.
- Remember to ask for help.

What support is currently available to assist dairy farmers?

Farmer Hotline - 6777 2233 For immediate practical assistance such as machinery, fodder or other on farm necessities contact the Farmer Hotline via 6777 2233 or AGT.admin@dpiw.tas.gov.au

Emergency Financial Assistance Crisis relief funding up to \$2,500 is available for farmers within 48 hours of application through the Rural Relief Fund (RRF). The RRF can be used for anything from household good, fence repair and fodder. To apply:

- Visit <http://www.ruralbusiness Tasmania.org.au>
- Call 1300 883 276

Commonwealth Disaster Assistance The Tasmanian and Australian Governments announced disaster assistance has been activated for communities affected by the flood situation in Tasmania. The assistance includes personal hardship and distress assistance; and recovery and restoration grants (click below to access further information):

Producers in the regions below can apply for disaster relief via 1800 567 567:

Break O'Day; Burnie; Central Coast; Central Highlands; Circular Head; Derwent Valley; Devonport; Dorset; George Town; Glamorgan-Spring Bay; Kentish; Latrobe; Launceston; Meander Valley; Northern Midlands; Southern Midlands; Waratah-Wynyard; West Tamar.

- [Temporary Living Expenses Grant](#) (PDF, 158KB)
- [Essential House hold Items Grant](#) (PDF, 180KB)
- [Repair, Restoration and Clean Up Grant](#) (PDF, 158KB)

Rural Financial Counselling The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides free rural financial counselling to a range of clients, including dairy farmers, who are suffering financial hardship. To talk to a Rural Financial Counsellor call 1300 883276 or go to www.ruralbusiness Tasmania.org.au

Dairy Recovery Concessional Loans Low interest 'Dairy Recovery Concessional Loans' are now available to eligible dairy farm businesses in Tasmania. Loans are available for eligible dairy farm businesses in Tasmania for the purpose of restructuring existing eligible debt, operating expenses necessary to continue normal operations, productivity enhancement, or any combination of these. Call the Dept of State Growth on 1800 440 026 for information.

Flood Recovery Loans

Recovery loans from \$25,000 to \$200,000 are now available to eligible primary producers and small businesses affected by the recent flood events in Tasmania. Loans can be used for essential working capital, replacement and repair of property, associated improvements and plant and equipment not covered by insurance. TFGA and DairyTas will contact farmers to let them know where and how to apply.

A new **Transport Subsidy** of up to \$15,000 (for 50% of incurred costs) is also available to cover transporting fodder and water, stock to and from agistment, sale or slaughter and transport of equipment and materials directly associated with primary production. Contact State Growth on 1800 440 026 for more information.

Aurora Energy - assistance for flood affected customers

Aurora Energy encourages any customers who are concerned about their electricity account and whose property has been affected by the Tasmanian flood event, to contact them directly on 1300 102 010 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday).

Animal Welfare during Floods

For information on the care of livestock affected by the current flood event, contact your regular vet or call DPIPWE via 6777 2115. If landholders require assistance in **disposing of deceased cattle** they can contact the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment directly on 0418 583 373 to facilitate the removal of the carcasses and their appropriate disposal.

Who can I contact for further assistance?

- For information on personal disaster assistance call 1300 135 513.
- For general information on natural disaster relief and recovery grants call 1800 567 567 or go to www.alert.taf.gov.au
- Contact DairyTas via (03) 6432 2233 or TFGA via (03) 6332 1800 for additional information or support.

It is normal to feel overwhelmed during challenging times. If you or someone you know is experiencing hardship and want to talk to someone who understands, call Rural Alive and Well via 1300 4357 6283 (24 hrs, 7 days). www.rawtas.com.au

Where can I direct people who want to help/volunteer?

At this point there's no formal call for volunteers. Only trained emergency services workers are out braving the weather to keep us safe. The best way for concerned citizens to help is by:

- Calling the Farm Assistance Hotline 6777 2233. A central register of offers of practical assistance e.g. machinery, fodder etc. and for those needing support to identify needs.
- Donating to Rural Relief Fund via www.ruralbusinessstasmania.org.au or 1300 883 276

Extra help for Dairy Farmers who have lost stock.

Some dairy farmers have expressed a wish to help those who have lost cows in the floods. With the help of Elders and Greenhams you can donate part or all of the proceeds from cull cow sales made to Greenhams. These funds will be sent through to the RBT Rural Relief Fund – Dairy Stock Replacement and will be allocated just to those dairy farmers who have stock losses. Please advise your livestock agent or Greenhams if you wish to donate.

Blazeaid Support on Fencing

They provide volunteer labour and tools to replace fencing (they have 20 trailers of equipment on their way to Tasmania). Farmers need to: Identify their most urgent fencing needs, clear fencelines (Blazeaid do not have the heavy equipment available to do this), have available all fencing materials – wire, posts etc. - Register with Blazeaid (indicating if they have materials ready to go)

To register contact Dianne McLeod at diannemcleod@hotmail.com or 03 6426 2614 or 0458 224 526