



Country Women's Association of NSW

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

ABN 82 318 909 926

Media Release

30 July 2018

Government drought assistance package welcomed by CWA of NSW

The Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW has welcomed today's announcement from the NSW Government on further support for drought-affected farmers.

The Government has announced an Emergency Drought Support Package worth \$500 million which includes:

- \$190 million for Drought Transport Subsidies;
- \$100 million for cutting the cost of farming fees and charges, ie. Local Land Services rates, water charges and registration costs for one vehicle;
- \$150 million for the Farm Innovation Fund infrastructure program; and
- Some funding for counselling and mental health; animal welfare and stock disposal; and critical services in regional communities such as drought-related road upgrade, and the transport of water.

"We are so glad the NSW Government has taken this step as farmers across the state continue to struggle to keep their businesses running in the face of one of the worst droughts in recent memory," said Annette Turner, President of the CWA of NSW.

"We have been calling for months for the NSW Government to not only acknowledge the extent of this drought disaster, but to also put in place some meaningful assistance that will make some difference where it's needed most."

Freight rebates were one of the measures called for by CWA of NSW members at its annual conference in May, and was also highlighted by participants at the Drought Roundtable convened by the CWA of NSW in Broken Hill last month.

"These transport subsidies will help with some of the enormous costs farmers are facing so we're very pleased to see these included in today's announcement, as well as some further relief in the form of the waiving of some fees and charges," Annette said.

The CWA of NSW announced last month the release of \$100,000 from its NSW Disaster Relief Fund for drought-affected families, and donations can still be made via the CWA website at

<https://cwaofnsw.org.au/donate>



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ENDS

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