



## Strengthening our approach to drought and risk management

### Providing farmers with confidence in preparing for drought and other challenges

The Government is committed to ensuring farmers are well positioned to prepare for, manage through and recover from adverse conditions, including drought. Government policy can encourage better farmer preparedness to manage known risks, while providing necessary assistance in extreme events.

The Government's new, almost **\$3 billion, drought and risk management package** provides farm businesses, farming families and rural communities with certainty about how and when the Commonwealth will help.

The package encourages preparedness. Initiatives include:

- **facilitating the uptake of crop insurance and other risk management advice;**
- **accelerated depreciation incentives for building on-farm fodder storage assets and water facilities;**
- **making Farm Management Deposits more beneficial and attractive to support good business management; and**
- **improvements to climate forecasting.**

It also recognises that even well-prepared businesses can suffer from severe and prolonged drought. The package provides social and business support to help individuals, businesses and communities through these difficult periods. New initiatives include:

- **enhancements to the Farm Household Allowance (increased case management activity supplement);**
- **additional rural financial counsellors in drought-affected areas;**
- **enhanced social and community support (specifically community mental health and family support);**
- **up to \$250 million per year over 11 years in drought concessional loans for farm businesses;**
- **assistance from the Australian Taxation Office for taxpayers experiencing difficulties in meeting their tax obligations; and**
- **funding to help reduce the impact of pest animals and weeds.**

Farmers can use many of the new, practical White Paper initiatives not only in drought, but to manage the other risks they face.

Farmers need confidence and certainty to invest in preparing their businesses for challenges including droughts. The Government will always stand by farmers in drought.

## We are delivering for Australian farmers

### Preparedness



Seasonal forecasting



Risk Advice Grants



Accelerated depreciation



FMD changes

### In drought business support



Drought concessional loans



Rural Financial Counsellors



Managing weeds and pests



Tax help from the ATO

### In drought family and community support



Farm Household Allowance



Mental Health and Community Support



Community projects

#### Further Information

- [agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au](http://agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au)