

# Drought Assistance Initiatives

<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Local Government Drought Coordinator Program</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Drought Coordinator Program will offer selected councils funds to appoint a Drought Coordinator. It is important for those councils most seriously impacted by the drought to be able to appoint a person to coordinate and communicate, at the local level, the various drought support activities of the federal state and local governments, voluntary organisations and businesses. The Drought Coordinator would also become a member of the local Drought Working Group in each area.</p>
<b>Who is eligible?</b>	<p>There are up to 20 municipalities that will require a Drought Coordination officer over the next eighteen months from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2009. Each council can apply for either a part-time or full-time officer depending on the needs of the local region. Funding of up to \$37,500 is available for the second half of 2007/08 and \$75,000 in 2008/09.</p> <p>The 20 eligible municipalities are:</p> <p>Mildura, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Horsham, Yarriambiack, Buloke, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Loddon, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander, Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Mitchell, Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Benalla.</p>
<b>How to apply / access</b>	<p>Eligible councils will be sent a letter of offer and a funding agreement in early November 2007 from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) outlining the funding criteria of the program. Councils wishing to take up the offer of funding will need to sign the funding agreement and return it to the Department for funding. Funding will automatically be rolled over for the 2008/09 financial year.</p>

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