

# Drought Assistance Initiatives

<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>On-Farm Productivity Improvement Grants</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide on-farm productivity grants that will assist in the management of drought.
<b>Background</b>	<p>A grant of up to \$3,000 per farm business to assist farmers in regions most affected by drought to implement on-farm infrastructure improvements which will enable drought proofing and to assist future on-farm productivity gains.</p> <p>Grants will be available to implement on-farm productivity improvements excluding irrigation infrastructure. The grants will fund half the total cost up to a maximum grant of \$3,000.</p>
<b>Who is eligible?</b>	<p>Farm businesses are required to meet the following eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The farm property must be either located in the 20 municipalities in northern Victoria which have been most seriously impacted by the drought OR the farm property must be largely reliant on irrigation in the Werribee and Bacchus Marsh district.</li><li>▪ The owner must be operating a commercial business deriving the majority of income from that source and devoting the majority of his/her time.</li><li>▪ The farm business must meet the EC Interest Rate Subsidy off-farm asset test of below \$750,000.</li></ul> <p>The 20 shires most drought affected councils include Mildura, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Horsham, Yarriambiack, Buloke, Swan Hill, Gannawarra, Loddon, Northern Grampians, Central Goldfields, Pyrenees, Mount Alexander, Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Mitchell, Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton, Moira and Benalla. All these councils are located within the zone of northern Victoria that has received less than 300mm in the last six months - the growing season for dryland crops and pastures.</p>

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<b>Who is eligible? (continued)</b>	<p>Farmers would be able to use the grants to undertake infrastructure improvements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Fodder storages and systems e.g. silos, silage bunkers, hay sheds.</li><li>▪ Reticulated water systems using water troughs for stock.</li><li>▪ Feedpads or feed troughs to minimise feed losses.</li></ul> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ These grants cannot be used in conjunction with any other similar type of government assistance.</li><li>▪ This grant is not available to undertake irrigation improvements.</li><li>▪ Payment will be made on proof of purchase.</li></ul>
<b>Closing date</b>	Applications to be received by 30 June 2008.
<b>How to apply / access</b>	Complete application form available from Rural Finance Corporation on 03 5448 2600.

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Updated October 2007