

# Assistance with animal welfare issues continues

## FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED LANDHOLDERS



The northern NSW bush fires have fast-tracked the need for landholders to make tough decisions. If you need advice to help you make decisions about whether to feed or sell your livestock please contact Local Land Services for assistance on 1300 795 299.

If you have been recently impacted by bush fires and have not already received an emergency fodder or emergency water allocation, or need to report damage or stock losses, please call the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647 to register your request. Requests for assistance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**For assistance call the  
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SERVICES HOTLINE**

**1800 814 647**

Please be aware that we are currently working through a very large number of requests.

**For concerns about pets, companion animals and wildlife please also contact 1800 814 647.**

### What to do after a fire:

- Assess your livestock (take photos where possible). Contact the hotline to register for assistance if you need a vet, otherwise work with your local private vet
- Monitor your stock for burns; especially hooves and respiratory issues, these issues can take several days to appear
- In the weeks following a bushfire it is important to continue monitoring stock for secondary health issues
- Monitor impacts from sudden changes in feed
- Monitor and assess your water quality and access; check pipes and pumps for damage
- Assess your infrastructure, including fencing
- Ensure stock have ongoing access to good quality feed

### Recovery Grants

Eligible farmers and small business on the Northern Tablelands, North Coast and Mid North Coast that were impacted by the recent NSW bush fires can apply for grants of up to \$15,000 to assist with clean-up and the replacement of infrastructure, including repairing and replacing damaged fences, equipment and machinery.

To apply for a recovery grant, primary producers and small businesses should contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on **1800 678 593** or visit [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au).

# Assistance with animal welfare issues continues



## FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED LANDHOLDERS

### Emergency Fodder:

As most requests for assistance in the Northern fire-affected regions have been actioned, operations at fodder distribution points have wound back as attention turns to recovery.

Current active fodder pick up points are [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/bushfires-current-situation](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/bushfires-current-situation)

AASFA, supported by Local Land Services and NSW DPI staff, provides Emergency Fodder Assistance to bushfire affected landholders (including non 'rate payers' or people without a holding reference number) for short-term relief, usually up to three days, to enable landholders to make alternative arrangements for livestock feed.

If you have been recently impacted by bush fires and have not already received an emergency fodder allocation, please call the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on **1800 814 647** to register your request. Requests for assistance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Bee keepers are eligible for assistance if affected by fire, just like other animal managers. If you require emergency assistance to care for your hives as a result of the recent fires, call the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on **1800 814 647**.

### Emergency water supplies:

Bushfire affected landholders can access a short term supply of water where animal welfare is at risk and infrastructure has been damaged eg pipes or tanks melted, supply fittings needed.

Bushfire affected Landholders who require emergency water for animal welfare over the Christmas period are advised to call **1800 814 647** by Friday 13 December as we aim to coordinate delivery by 20 December. Accessing water contractors over the Christmas period will be difficult and may delay delivery. This includes cases where water has been removed by fire-fighting authorities from dams/ storages.

The bush fire response will provide water to manage immediate animal welfare issues.

We are continuing to contact landholders who have requested water to assess their needs - and water is being delivered to those in dire need now.

Prioritisation of emergency water provision will include:

- significance of impact on animal welfare
- significance of impact on other agricultural activities

Assistance for minor/temporary repairs to infrastructure to enable water supply is also available.

### We understand it's hard for you as well as your stock

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact the Disaster Welfare

Assistance Line on **1800 018 444** from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Further information on disaster assistance is at [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au) and the NSW emergency information and response website at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)

If you or someone you know needs extra support, the Mental Health Line is a 24-hour telephone service operating seven days a week across NSW: **1800 011 511**