



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

3 July 2018

CWA of NSW to give \$100,000 in grants to drought-affected farmers

The Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW has announced \$100,000 will be released from its Disaster Relief fund to help farm families in NSW struggling with worsening drought conditions.

This is in addition to last month's donation of \$1,000,000 by businessman and philanthropist Dick Smith to help drought-affected farm families across the nation, with the CWA of Australia working with state CWAs to distribute the funds.

Many NSW regions are experiencing some of the driest conditions in recent memory after record-low rainfall and a warmer-than-average autumn, and CWA of NSW President Annette Turner said an increasing number of farmers are being pushed to the financial brink.

"Releasing this money from the Disaster Relief Fund is something tangible we can do for these families in need. We can't make it rain but we can try to ease a little of their short-term financial pain," Mrs Turner said.

"We appreciate it's only a small amount compared with the level of hardship out there, but this funding is designed to help people with the household needs and expenses they have right now."

Grant payments will be made up to a maximum of \$3000 per individual applicant and/or household and are available for farming businesses that are drought-affected and reliant on farming as their primary source of income.

The money can be used for the likes of groceries, vehicle maintenance, school expenses, household bills and medical costs.

Mrs Turner said the CWA of NSW Disaster Relief Fund was a valuable means of support thanks to donations from CWA members and branches, and members of the community, with the fund most recently used to assist the victims of the Tathra bushfires in March of this year.

Along with putting the fund into action, Mrs Turner said the organisation was still calling on governments to provide greater recognition of the crisis unfolding across much of eastern Australia, and start providing the type of assistance that will make a real difference to farm businesses.

"In May, at our State Conference, members formally called on the NSW government to take urgent action with respect to a broader set of drought support measures, and restructuring and significantly increasing drought funding," she said.



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“We’re also advocating for improving the process for identifying and classifying drought areas and for a review of current drought application requirements. Freight subsidies are another priority that will make a real difference to farmers.”

For application information and criteria related to the drought relief grants go to www.cwaofnsw.org.au/droughtaid

People can also donate to the CWA of NSW Disaster Relief Fund, with donations tax deductible and able to be made via the CWA website at <https://cwaofnsw.org.au/donate>

Since the fund was established in 2006/07, more than \$1.37 million has been given to victims of fire, flood, drought and other natural disasters across the state.

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