

**SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Organisation: Hay Shire Council

Date Received: 11 November 2019



Hay Shire
COUNCIL

Hay Shire Council

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4th November 2019

Mr Justin Clancy
Chair
Legislative Assembly Committee

Email: investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

Re: Inquiry into Support for Drought Affected Communities

I refer to your email dated 3 October 2019 seeking a submission to the inquiry into support for drought affected communities in NSW.

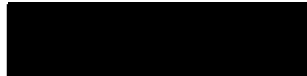
Council, at its Ordinary meeting held 22nd October 2019, considered your invitation and resolved to make a submission. The key points raised in Council's discussions were:-

- There is no doubt the drought has a significant impact on the local economy including job losses which results in population decline impacting small businesses, schools and other services;
- There is a disconnect with grant opportunities and the community. Council is looking at taking the lead in this area to ensure local businesses are fully aware of all grant funding that is available;
- The overhead costs in drought affected communities is an impediment to development particularly industrial land to create business opportunities;
- The lack of suitable freight subsidies for industry, particularly for the western regions where longer distances are required to be travelled;
- The availability of cheaper electricity and reliable mobile phone and internet coverage will help attract and maintain businesses in drought affected communities;
- The current legislation and guidelines make it difficult to reuse water and other waste materials. A total rewrite of the legislation to allow easier reuse of resources will bring about savings to western region's and create business opportunities in drought affected communities;
- The support of drought affected areas is very much appreciated, however, a review of the trigger point of support or earlier intervention, particularly regarding subsidies would assist local communities manage the impact of the drought;
- That a total review of water management across the state is required, including water storage and allocations to rural communities. This should include the continued investment in water security measures;
- There were numerous other actions that could be undertaken to assist drought affected communities including rural financial counselling, rate reductions (which has begun in some circumstances), mental health services, farm household support that is not means tested and easy to make application, and open up grazing across government owned/managed lands.

Council applauds the Government for this inquiry. The affect of the drought impacts all walks of life and the review of all aspects of the management and support of rural communities, in particular, can only be beneficial to everyone.

If you have an queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6990 1100.

Yours faithfully



David Webb
General Manager