

Drought declared areas

What's new

- We've extended the waiver on annual water licence fees for another 2 years. Water users in drought declared and disaster-affected areas will continue to be exempt from these fees in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- Extra land rent relief for drought affected farmers is available. More than 8,500 Queensland farmers and businesses doing it tough from the drought will have an extra year before having to pay their state land rent, and half could also receive a discount.

We are providing advice and assistance on a range of issues impacting Queenslanders in [drought declared areas](#).

[Drought situation reports](#) are released regularly by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. These reports provide information about drought conditions in Queensland.

For general information about [drought in Queensland](#), call 13QGOV (13 74 68).

Accessing water

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries offers the [emergency water infrastructure rebate](#) under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). This rebate applies to the purchase and installation of water infrastructure such as pumps, bores and tanks.

Other requirements and approvals may apply before you can start taking water or constructing water infrastructure. Read more about:

- access to [underground water for stock and domestic purposes](#)
- applying for a [water licence](#)
- [water bore construction standards](#)
- approvals for [water infrastructure and related development](#).

Water fee relief

The widespread drought across the state is causing many landholders severe hardship. As part of the Queensland Government's drought assistance package, the department is waiving certain water fees in [local government areas](#) that are drought declared.

Water licence waivers

Annual water licence fees will be waived every financial year while the drought declaration is in place.

Annual water licence fee relief will be available in areas that become [drought declared](#).

The department is also waiving new water licence application fees for the take of stock and domestic water in [drought declared areas](#) throughout Queensland.

Drought assistance land rent rebate

As part of the government's drought assistance package, landholders of rural leases (being Category 11 leases used for grazing and primary production) issued under the *Land Act 1994* are eligible for a rebate of up to 18% of the annual rent where that annual payment is more than the minimum rent of \$272.00 (excl. GST).

The rebate is available to leases in [drought declared areas](#) and individually drought affected properties.

Landholders who are eligible for the rebate will receive information with their annual or quarterly invoices.

Drought assistance land rent deferral

As a further hardship assistance measure, the payment date for all Category 11 drought declared invoices for the 2020-21 financial year has been extended until 30 June 2020. No penalty interest will accrue on overdue balances during the 2020-21 financial year.

More information

- Find out more about [drought assistance for land rent](#).

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