

Financial assistance for the shellfish industry

Over the past few years the NSW coast has suffered many adverse events resulting in significant stock and infrastructure losses, and harvest area closures. The NSW Government's *Supporting You* website links people and businesses in NSW who are suffering financial hardship with a range of services and support. Visit: www.nsw.gov.au/supporting-you

Natural disaster relief

In the event of a natural disaster contact Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW), Primary Industries Division. They will gather information regarding losses and build a case for declaring a natural disaster. If a natural disaster is declared, affected farmers in urgent need of assistance may apply for loans via the Rural Assistance Authority for up to \$130,000 at a concessional interest rate of around 2.56%pa. These loans are available for replacement and repair not covered by your insurance. Visit: www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief/loans/faq

Financial hardship relief

Rural financial counsellors

The counsellor's main role is to help farmers access government financial support. They can also help with discussions with your bank for loan restructures, and in filling out I&I NSW fee and debt waiver forms. The service is free and confidential, and the counsellor may be able to visit you in your home. Visit: www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/rfcs/counsellors/nsw

I&I NSW

I&I NSW Aquaculture Administration can discuss the option of a monthly payment plan for farmers experiencing financial difficulties. Permit holders may also apply for fee and debt waivers. These waivers are assessed against income and assets. For more information please call 02 4982 1232.

NSW Food Authority

The Authority may consider a waiver of fees and charges for farmers suffering financial hardship. For more information please call the licensing department on 02 6552 3000.

Land and Property Management Authority

The LPMA may offer a waiver of rental fees on Crown Land leases. For more information please contact your local LPMA office.

Local council

Local councils may offer assistance with the payment of rates under a payment plan. These assistance measures are based on proven financial hardship and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. For more information please contact your local council's rates section.

Centrelink

Centrelink can provide assistance with emergency income support for eligible applicants. They can provide counsellor and social worker support. Contact the Centrelink emergency assistance line on 180 22 33.