



Recovering from Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke's Bay

Cyclone Gabrielle has taken a heavy toll on the Hawke's Bay region's farmers and growers. Help is there to get you through the immediate crisis and to recover.

Government funding

\$25 million fund for recovery

You can apply for a grant from this \$25 million fund through the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). The following grants are available:

- Up to \$10,000 for farmers to kick start your recovery with money for water infrastructure repairs and fencing.
- Up to \$2,000 per hectare up to a maximum of \$40,000 for growers to remove silt from trees and vines, other clean up tasks, and work to reduce future losses, such as preserving trees in orchards and vines for future production.

To ask for a grant

Fill out the form on the [MPI website](#). MPI staff are also going into isolated areas with hard copies of these forms and will help filling them out.

You will need to describe the damage from the cyclone and the work you need to do.

You will need to scan or take a photo of your completed form and your supporting information. This can be emailed to: funding@mpi.govt.nz

If you don't have internet access to do this, call MPI on **0800 00 83 33** and ask for help.

Other government financial help for rural people

A further \$4 million has been provided to help farmers, growers, whenua Māori owners and rural communities with the recovery. This money is going to sector organisations (including DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, Horticulture New Zealand, Federated Farmers, whenua Māori entities and Rural Support Trusts) to work out the areas of greatest need and provide support.

MPI information about funding is here: [Cyclone Gabrielle recovery: advice, support, and funding | NZ Government \(mpi.govt.nz\)](#)

Civil Defence payments

Call Work and Income on 0800 400 100 for information

Civil Defence provides money for those affected by this disaster. You don't have to be on a benefit to qualify and non-residents may be eligible. These payments can help with:

- emergency food, clothing and bedding
- accommodation costs if you can't stay at home and have to stay in paid accommodation
- loss of income due to an inability to work caused by the flooding
- the cost of having evacuees staying with you in places such as a private home, marae or community centres.

Help from across the primary sector

The following organisations can all provide advice and support:

DairyNZ

Phone: **0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)**
Email: info@dairynz.co.nz

Beef and Lamb New Zealand

Phone: **0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352)**
Email: enquiries@beeflambnz.com

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Phone: **0800 327 646**

Horticulture New Zealand – Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa

Phone: **+64 4 472 3795**
Email: info@hortnz.co.nz

Rural Support Trust: Help and support for rural NZ
www.rural-support.org.nz

Phone: **0800 RURAL HELP** or **0800 787 254**



Work and Income financial support

There are lots of ways Work and Income can help, and their staff can point you in the right direction based on your situation.

You don't have to be on a benefit.

See: www.workandincome.govt.nz/urgent-costs

Looking after animals

For advice on animal welfare or to report concerns, contact MPI's animal welfare team on 0800 008 333.

MPI is coordinating animal welfare response efforts in Hawke's Bay and working closely with the SPCA and HUHA.

There is a temporary shelter for companion animals at the Hawke's Bay Racecourse at 300 Prospect Road in Hastings

We know there are animals that are missing or need help. Please contact MPI's 'on-call' animal welfare emergency management team if you need help with animal rescue, evacuation or temporary homing.

Email: awem@mpi.govt.nz or phone: **04 894 0132**

If you have a missing horse, please list it for free on www.lostpet.co.nz and then share the listing on equine Facebook pages.

For more information see the MPI factsheet: Animals affected by flood - www.mpi.govt.nz/animals-in-emergencies

NZ Veterinary Association [information on helping animals after floods](#).

Keeping stock fed

Feed for horses and livestock has been donated from outside the region and can be collected from Montana Arena (33 Montana Road, Bridge Pa) and Napier RDA61 (Sandy Road, Napier).

MPI and Federated Farmers have restarted the national Feed Coordination Service to match people with grazing or supplementary feed for sale with those who need it. To offer or request feed or grazing:

Freephone: **0800 FARMING (0800 32 76 46)**

You can also register online using these links:

- **Grazing needed**
- **Grazing available**
- **Feed needed**
- **Feed available**

Veterinary help

If you need help from a vet, try to contact your usual vet at first. Contacts for other vet clinics are at the New Zealand Veterinary Association website: www.nzva.org.nz

Moving stock and updating NAIT

Reporting timeframes for updating NAIT have been extended because of the cyclone.

Website: [Support for farmers affected by heavy rain and flooding in the North Island | OSPRI](#)

Phone: **0800 482 463**

Lifestyle block owners

If you're a lifestyle block owner, information on recovering from an emergency event such as this cyclone is in this Auckland handbook. Much of the information is also relevant to other areas: [lifestyle-handbook_a4_interactive.pdf \(aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz\)](#).

Deceased farm livestock

The Hawkes Bay Regional Council is leading the disposal of dead livestock and is receiving and coordinating calls for collection and disposal.

If already on farm, farmers may be able to bury their own dead livestock as per normal conditions.



Bury any animals more than 50 metres from a waterway and think about your usual pest and vermin control.

If the dead animals are not on farm, or there are too many on the property for you to deal with, please phone Hawkes Bay Regional Council on 06 835 9200 or 0800 108 838. The council will coordinate collection and appropriate disposal.

You can also seek advice from your sector group.

Federated Farmers has developed a [regional guide on stock burial and offal pits](#).

DairyNZ also has a [Dead Stock Disposal Best Practice Guideline](#).

Looking after yourself, your whanau and your staff

This event is huge and will undoubtedly affect people's mental health, now and into the future.

Talking to others can help. A good place to start is your local Rural Support Trust who provide free and confidential support and advice. This nationwide network is run by local people to help farming families and rural communities

Phone: **0800 787 254** or www.rural-support.org.nz

Other useful information

Paying your tax

IRD is aware many customers will have been affected by flood and other weather-related damage and may need help to keep up with their tax obligations, including filing and paying on time. Visit the IRD website for more information: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/updates/news-folder/flooding-in-the-north-island>

Farm Business Advice Fund

Qualifying farmers can receive up to \$6000 to seek independent financial or business advice. The Farm Business Advice Fund is managed by Rural Support Trusts. Banks are jointly funding the initiative. Apply through your local Rural Support Trust: www.rural-support.org.nz/Help-Support/Financial-Pressure

Rural Women New Zealand – Adverse Events Grants

There is financial assistance available where there is an identified urgent need following a declared adverse event such as a flood, drought, fire or earthquake. It is available to individuals, communities and groups, with a particular emphasis on rural women and children: www.ruralwomennz.nz/grants

Food Safety information following the floods

[Food safety in the home after Cyclone Gabrielle](#)

[Guidance for harvesting produce affected by flood waters for human consumption](#)