



# Information for growers in dry conditions

## Medium-scale event Government support

The combined impact of the fire and droughts on the primary industries in the region have been classified as a medium-scale event by the Government. This unlocks further government support for affected farmers and growers.

Growers facing financial difficulty because of the wildfire and drought may be able to use Inland Revenue's income equalisation scheme discretions. This allows late deposits for the 2018 income tax year up to 30 April 2019, and you may also be able to make early withdrawals from the scheme. Talk to your tax advisor or Inland Revenue on **0800 473 566**.

If you have a family and your income changes, contact Inland Revenue to see if you are entitled to Working for Families tax credits or an increase.

Work and Income may also offer support such as benefits or help with urgent costs. If you or your employees' situations have changed due to an adverse event, call Work and Income on **0800 779 997**.

## Water conservation and usage

### Use your water meter reading

- Compare daily use with allocation
- Understand the language i.e. 1 mm per ha = 10 M<sup>3</sup> per ha.

### Not all parts of the business are the same

- Consider potential yield/quality impacts.
- Prioritise irrigation to higher gross margin varieties/crops/age.
- Survival water only for harvested, young and immature perennial crops, allocating any surplus to crops still to be harvested.
- There may be further post-harvest risks to be managed. Talk with your post-harvest facility/supply group/marketer.

### Logistical issues

- Discuss water-sharing possibilities with your neighbours.
- Understand and modify infrastructure to allow irrigation split based on your new strategy, e.g. taps, drip line, solenoid changes.
- Consider bore depth and pumping rates to protect access to aquifer. This may restrict your irrigation prior to further allocation restrictions.



## Important names and numbers

### Horticulture New Zealand

Mike Chapman, 027 487 4264, [mike.chapman@hortnz.co.nz](mailto:mike.chapman@hortnz.co.nz)  
Antony Heywood, 021 998 038, [antony.heywood@hortnz.co.nz](mailto:antony.heywood@hortnz.co.nz)

### Vegetables New Zealand

John Seymour, 027 543 7531, [john.seymour@hortnz.co.nz](mailto:john.seymour@hortnz.co.nz)

### Tomatoes New Zealand

Helen Barnes, 021 348 948, [helen.barnes@hortnz.co.nz](mailto:helen.barnes@hortnz.co.nz)

### Apples & Pears New Zealand

Julian Raine, 021 443 993, [raine@ts.co.nz](mailto:raine@ts.co.nz)

### New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Association

Phil Jones, 027 647 2258, [phil.jones@nzkgi.org.nz](mailto:phil.jones@nzkgi.org.nz)

### Tasman District Council

Dennis Bush-King, 03 543 8430, 027 431 0317,  
[dennis.bush-king@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:dennis.bush-king@tasman.govt.nz)

**If life or property is at risk call 111.**

**Government Helpline:** 0800 779 997

**Tasman District Council:** 03 543 8400

**Work & Income:** 0800 779 997

**Local Health Navigators:** 0800 611 116 (8am–5pm)

### Free phonelines for 24-hour advice

- Healthline: 0800 611 116 to speak to a nurse
- Mental health: text/phone 1737 counsellors
- After Hours Doctor:  
Nelson – Medical Injury Centre 03 546 8881  
Motueka – Greenwood Health 03 528 8866

**Nelson Central Police Station:** 03 546 3840

**MPI Animal Welfare:** 0800 008 333 (option 4)

# Play to your strengths

Studies show there are some factors and behaviours you can harness to get through challenges like drought:

**MOTIVATION AND DETERMINATION:** This is the key common factor found in studies of successful farmers. Try to stay focused, minimise losses, and look forward to positioning yourself to take advantage of the good times.

**DECISION-MAKING SKILLS:** Plan, decide on which steps to take and stick with your plan, while also updating it. Try not to keep changing your mind as things change.

**RECORD, MONITOR, PRIORITISE:** Take pride in keeping useful records, focus on high impact priorities and look for continual small improvements.

**BE KIND:** Remember the people around you including partners, children and workers are likely to need your empathy as they feel the stress too.

**PARTNERSHIP:** Your spouse or partner and you work together to make decisions and support each other.

**ASK FOR HELP AND ABSORB INFORMATION:** Talk with friends, neighbours, Rural Support people, bankers, advisers, discussion groups, community support networks or anybody prepared to listen.

**WORK SMART:** Hot, dry weather is exhausting and relentless. Make shade available and take extra breaks when doing physical work. Schedule any jobs requiring heavy protective gear for the cooler parts of the day.

## LOOK AFTER YOURSELF.

**Make a plan and set trigger points to make decisions or take action:**

- Dates, stock condition, water restriction, feed availability.
- Ensure you all agree with the plan.
- When those points or times hit, do enact your plan.



## RuralSupport

### Rural People Helping Rural People

Rural Support Trusts are well-connected with:

- MPI
- Work and Income
- Financial support
- Mentoring
- Planning & management advice
- Health providers

Contact us any time for a free, confidential chat.

**0800 787 254**  
[www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)



Rural Support Trusts work with Civil Defence, government and emergency services, supporting rural families in everyday events and through fire, drought, earthquakes, floods, and recovery. We support all rural people – owners, managers, families, staff, and contractors – in all rural agribusiness; dry stock, dairy, cropping, horticulture, forestry, poultry, and rural contracting.

Things can be a bit overwhelming in drought and it's normal to feel anxious. It can add to other stressors you are managing too. There are places you can call for yourself, your family, a neighbour or worker, including your GP.

Your local Rural Support Trust on **0800 787 254** can help to connect you with professionals including farming or business advice, financial information, health, and counselling services. Our services are free and confidential. We can talk over the phone or come to you.