



How does **Drought Force** help primary producers?

What is Drought Force?

Drought Force helps individual farms and farm communities that have been severely affected by drought. Drought Force assists farming properties with their workforce needs and helps keep the pool of farm labour from moving away from the region.

Where does Drought Force operate?

Drought Force operates in areas declared as Exceptional Circumstances (EC) as well as other areas eligible for Australian Government drought assistance. It primarily takes place on private land, usually local, drought affected farms. Taking part in Drought Force does not mean putting other workers out of a job.

What can Drought Force do?

Drought Force is designed to:

- ease the burden of drought for farmers and their families, and
- make sure that farms and properties are maintained and therefore able to cope once a drought breaks.

Drought Force will also:

- encourage people to remain in their local community, retaining and building local skills, and
- help support local economies dealing with the impact of drought.



How do I get Drought Force on my farm?

Contact your local Community Work Coordinator (CWC) to discuss having a Drought Force activity operate on your farm. CWCs are contracted to the Australian Government and will help you with the application process. To find your local CWC phone the Drought Force Hotline on **1800 004 226** or visit the Drought Force web page at workplace.gov.au/droughtforce.

Things to consider if an activity is to operate on your property:

- your ability to supervise participants during their placement on your property
- the activity must have the potential to assist in the retention of rural workers, particularly those with essential skills by keeping them meaningfully occupied on local properties
- the activity must address the effects of drought and can include tasks such as mending fences, maintaining irrigation channels, hand feeding and watering stock.





It should be noted that:

- the Drought Force activity will not involve the purchasing of any material for a private business—for example, materials that provide a private benefit such as stock feed will not be funded
- Drought Force activities do not involve the use of firearms.

Do I need insurance to have a Drought Force activity on my farm?

Drought Force is part of the Work for the Dole programme and as such is a work experience programme, not an employment or training programme. Participants are not considered to be employees as they receive income support and not wages. Workers Compensation therefore does not cover them. The Commonwealth however purchases Personal Accident and Public Liability insurance to cover Participants while engaged in Drought Force and Work for the Dole Activities.

Primary producers will need to:

- maintain an appropriate level of public liability insurance for the term of the activity
- have appropriate insurance cover for their staff, premises and equipment (including motor vehicles)
- comply with their relevant State/Territory's workers' compensation legislation.

Further Assistance

- Drought Force Hotline
1800 004 226
- National Relay Service
1800 555 677
www.relayservice.com.au
- Translating and Interpreting Service
13 14 50
www.immi.gov.au/tis

For more information contact your local Community Work Coordinator, phone the Drought Force Hotline on 1800 004 226 or visit the Drought Force web page at workplace.gov.au/droughtforce.