



REGIONAL COUNCIL

*Livestock Farming Drought Support*

# **Action Plan**

*including status of each item*

## INTRODUCTION

Lockyer Valley Regional Council hosted a *Livestock Farming Drought Support Forum* on Sunday 22 September 2019 to hear directly from livestock owners about the current scope and impact of the drought for them, and what mitigation measures might be most meaningful.

The forum was attended by 59 community participants and 10 elected representatives from local, state and federal governments. Of the 72 community members who registered (including both pre-registration and on the day) 57 indicated they farm livestock. Only 4 participants indicated that they are not involved in livestock farming, and another 11 provided rural addresses consistent with livestock farming. The statistics above indicate that the forum was attended by a predominantly livestock farming representation of the wider community.

Participants worked through a series of seven questions at tables which were facilitated by Council staff so that farmers were free to discuss their ideas without having to take notes. Notes on key points were recorded on large sheets of paper which have been retained and transcribed by Council. The last question (Q7) focused on the top 4 items each table wanted to take collective action on over the next 6 months. The table facilitators reported the answers to Q7 back to the whole room before participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the event.

This Action Plan is a consolidation of all answers to Q7 at the forum (the top 4 items each table wanted to take collective action on over the next 6 months), grouped into 6 key themes. The Draft Action Plan was distributed to forum participants and made available to the public for review prior to finalisation.

The Plan is intended as a guide for all stakeholders on the recommended actions that will best assist local drought-affected farmers during drought conditions. It is intended as a shared action plan, where all levels of government, support and service agencies, farmers and the community need to do their part.

Council will provide periodic reports on the implementation of the Plan.

The Livestock Farming Drought Support Action Plan was endorsed by Lockyer Valley Regional Council on Wednesday 13 November 2019.

1. Drought Relief – Financial and Resources					
#	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Comments	Actions Taken to Date
1.1	Encourage local drought relief donations to stay local via an ongoing media campaign	Farmer representatives  Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Immediate and ongoing	Media stories by farmers will be more effective than from government.  Council can assist in coordinating media	Several farmer-led media stories ran in local, regional and national media in the first half of 2020 raising awareness of the level of drought impact in the Lockyer Valley.  Council has not received any requests from farmers for assistance with media campaigns however has maintained a media presence on the drought issue.
1.2	Provide access to cheap feed and water <u>for stock</u>	Charities – drought support and general	Immediate and ongoing	Council to promote the contact information for all relevant charities that can assist	Council has run regular media articles in local newspapers and social media raising awareness of agencies with funding to assist with stock fodder and water.  Council has liaised regularly with a range of drought support agencies to ensure the Lockyer Valley situation is understood and supported.

1.3	Provide immediate subsidies for feed and water	Charities – drought support and general	Immediate and ongoing	Council to promote the contact information for all relevant charities that can assist	<p>Charities providing subsidies and assistance with stock feed and water including, but not limited to, Rural Aid, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, QCWA and Drought Angels have been regularly promoted to the community via Council.</p> <p>Council has liaised directly between farmers and support agencies where requests are made to ensure targeted support.</p>
1.4	Provide access to cheap water and food for families and assistance with other household costs	Charities – drought support and general	Immediate and ongoing	Council to promote the contact information for all relevant charities that can assist	<p>Charities providing subsidies and assistance with household food, water and utility bills including, but not limited to, Rural Aid, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, QCWA and Drought Angels have been regularly promoted to the community via Council.</p> <p>Council has liaised directly between farmers and support agencies where requests are made to ensure targeted support</p>

1.5	Reduce, subsidise or assist with Council rates	Lockyer Valley Regional Council  Charities – drought support and general	Immediate and ongoing	<p>Council to promote hardship payment options</p> <p>Council to consider deferring interest and extending discount periods</p> <p>Farmers in need of support to contact relevant charities which will contribute to rates</p>	<p>Further to Council’s standard process for customers requesting payment arrangements during extraordinary times, Council approved a Hardship Policy effective 15 July 2020 that provides a clear process for assistance with Council Rates.</p> <p>Council promoted via the media the Hardship Policy and willingness to discuss payment arrangements to reduce the hardship experienced by drought-affected households.</p> <p>Council promoted several charities receiving government funding to assist with household expenses including Rates.</p>
1.6	Facilitate and/or lobby for access to lower cost water (stand pipes access, availability and costs)	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	TBA	Council to continue liaising with Queensland Urban Utilities on options to increase standpipe availability and possible reductions in bulk water prices at standpipes	Council held discussions with Urban Utilities (the water provider) to determine the viability of extending water mains so that standpipes could be closer to outer rural areas, and to

					<p>reduce the cost of water at filling stations.</p> <p>Urban Utilities advised Council that extended mains and standpipe locations is not viable.</p> <p>Several charities have been promoted that can assist with the cost of water.</p> <p>Council installed drought support information packs at all public standpipe locations in the region so that facility users had easy access to support information and services. It is noted that these information packs were often removed and needed replacing.</p>
1.7	Provide assistance in purchasing water and/or power costs	Farmers	Immediate and ongoing	<p>Farmers to contact electricity companies to discuss hardship arrangements and rebates</p> <p>Farmers to contact relevant charities for assistance with water and energy costs</p>	Council is unable to report on this item as it is an action for farmers to undertake directly.

1.8	Proactive contact from support providers	Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Rural Financial Counsellor	Immediate and ongoing	Council to liaise with the Rural Financial Counsellor to coordinate the range of support services to attend more community events to increase their accessibility	<p>Council officers work closely with the Rural Financial Counsellors to coordinate a range of drought support agencies and services.</p> <p>In late 2019 Council and several support agencies attended community events at Mt Sylvia and Stockyard Creek to improve accessibility of support information and services.</p> <p>Plans to continue this process in 2020 including agency attendance and Laidley cattle and horse sales was disrupted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Attendance at these events recommenced approximately August 2020 subject to COVID-Safe processes and restrictions.</p> <p>Council facilitated the <i>10 Minutes with a Master</i> and <i>Quick Chats</i> programs which allowed farmers to have introductory meetings with up to 10 support agencies on the same day to determine their</p>
-----	--	--	-----------------------	---	--

					best ongoing support options. Council promoted this through direct mail to rural properties and extensive media coverage however few farmers took up the opportunities.
1.9	Financial subsidies for freight and drought proofing projects such as improving dams, water efficiencies, etc	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives  Farmers	TBA  Immediate and ongoing	Relevant governments to review relevant programs and improve accessibility and eligibility where possible.  Farmers to review and apply for existing subsidies ( <a href="http://www.daf.qld.gov.au">www.daf.qld.gov.au</a> or via a Rural Financial Counselling Service <a href="http://www.rfcssq.org.au">www.rfcssq.org.au</a> )	This item was put to Federal and State Members and some Ministers.  Council is unable to report directly on any changes to levels of government support however it is noted that the range of government services have been actively promoted via print and social media, Council's website and community drought support information packs.
1.10	Coordination of bulk purchasing and distribution of local fodder (to offset the 40% increase in costs)	TBA	TBA	This may be best done by Rural Aid, Drought Angels or QCWA – or a locally-based charity such as Lions Club	Council is unaware of any action on this item following initial discussion with some agencies to determine viability of this for the Lockyer Valley and potential economic impacts on local



					growers if subsidised product came into the region.
1.11	Ensure equitable access to grants / funding	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	TBA	Relevant government departments to review their eligibility to ensure that farmers have equitable access to each category of funding and that grants for innovation are promoted separately to grants and assistance for drought support	This item was put to Federal and State Members and some Ministers.  Council is unable to report on any changes to management of government grant and funding processes.
1.12	People to help prepare applications	Farmers via Rural Financial Counselling Service	Immediate and ongoing	Rural Financial Counselling Service ( <a href="http://www.rfcssq.org.au">www.rfcssq.org.au</a> or call Rachel on 0477 056 074)	The Rural Financial Counsellor Service (RFCSQ) has been actively promoted by Council since the Forum. Council continues to liaise closely with RFCSQ to monitor trends and seek additional support if requested.
1.13	Utilise appropriate government-owned land and resources as stock feed/watering sources such as harvesting grass from road and land reserves, utilise Queensland Urban	Commonwealth, State and Local Governments via elected representatives	TBA	Relevant governments to review capacity, legal and liability, and viability with a view to maximising available resources.	Council has worked cooperatively with landholders across the region to manage roadside grazing in ways that manage road safety risks appropriately.  Landholders have harvested grass from roadsides as needed.

	Utilities' waste water for irrigation, etc.				Farmers will need to contact other levels of government directly for permission to access their unused land for grazing and harvesting of fodder.
--	---	--	--	--	---

<b>2. Drought Relief – Financial Counselling and Mental Health Support</b>					
<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Actions Taken to Date</b>
2.1	Improve promotion, awareness and ease-of-access to mental health support services	Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Support Agencies	Immediate and ongoing	Council to liaise with drought support agencies to increase awareness and accessibility. Includes: Media, events, posters.	Council facilitated the <i>10 Minutes with a Master</i> and <i>Quick Chats</i> programs which allowed farmers to have introductory meetings with up to 10 support agencies on the same day to determine their best ongoing support options. Council promoted this through direct mail to rural properties and extensive media coverage however few farmers took up the opportunities.
2.2	Improve promotion, awareness and ease-of-access to rural financial counsellors	Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Support Agencies	Immediate and ongoing	Council to liaise with drought support agencies to increase awareness and accessibility. Includes: Media, events, posters.	The Rural Financial Counsellor Service (RFCSQ) has been actively promoted by Council since the Forum via print media, social

					<p>media, Council’s website, direct referral and community information packs.</p> <p>Council continues to liaise closely with RFCSQ to monitor trends and seek additional support if requested.</p>
2.3	<p>Promote and utilise neighbourhood / community groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share information – Talk, email etc.</li> <li>○ Council and support agencies to come and provide information</li> </ul>	<p>Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Support Agencies</p> <p>Farmers</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>	<p>Council to liaise with drought support agencies to attend community group meetings and events.</p> <p>Farmers to actively participate in local community networks and groups and share information with family, friends and neighbours.</p>	<p>Lifeline’s community development officer was very active throughout the region until the position ceased approximately Jun 2020.</p> <p>In late 2019 Council and several support agencies attended community events at Mt Sylvia and Stockyard Creek to improve accessibility of support information and services.</p> <p>Plans to continue this process in 2020 including agency attendance and Laidley cattle and horse sales was disrupted by COVID-19.</p>

					<p>Attendance at these events recommenced approximately August 2020 subject to COVID-Safe processes and restrictions.</p> <p>Council presented information at Lockyer Shed Men meeting in February.</p> <p>Council is unable to report on what level of information sharing has occurred between farmers and among community groups they are part of.</p>
2.4	Proactive contact from support providers at saleyards, display days, produce stores and agricultural supply companies, etc	Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Support Agencies	Immediate and ongoing	Council to liaise with drought support agencies to attend key gatherings of affected livestock farmers such as at saleyards and display days.	<p>This process had commenced at a minor level including agency attendance and Laidley cattle and horse sales but was disrupted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Council's Local Drought Support Officer commenced employment in August 2020 with Australian Government funding and has been attending Laidley Saleyard days, has visited most rural suppliers in the region and is</p>

					working with them to share meaningful information.
2.5	Raise awareness of and/or lobby for more: local drought support coordinators, rural financial extension officers and/or Rural Financial Counsellors and Farm Household Case Officers	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Immediate and ongoing	Ensure there are sufficient coordinators and support officers to meet the increasing needs of the Lockyer Valley and ensure they are well promoted and accessible.	<p>The Australian Government increased their funding for Rural Financial Counsellors (RFC) and broadened the types of businesses that could access their support. Levels of demand for their services and wait times is monitored in case more lobbying is needed.</p> <p>Advice provided to Council is that current level of resourcing of RFCs is meeting demand.</p> <p>Council utilised Australian Government Drought Communities Programme funding to engage a Local Drought Support Coordinator to improve coordination and awareness of support agencies and programs.</p>

3. Government Assistance and Regulation					
#	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Comments	Actions Taken to Date
3.1	Lobby for equalisation schemes to have a compulsory percentage of income set aside for income averaging purposes under the Income Tax Act administered by the ATO.	Commonwealth Government via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	Representatives to table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>
3.2	Review asset testing as it is too restrictive	Commonwealth Government via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	Representatives to table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of</p>

					<p>Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>
3.3	Promote availability of low interest loans and review eligibility for all livestock owners.	Commonwealth Government via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	<p>Representatives to encourage relevant departments to increase promotion of low-interest loans, and;</p> <p>Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.</p>	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>

3.4	Review and improve how information on drought assistance grants is delivered to those who need it.	Commonwealth Government via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	Representatives to encourage relevant departments to review the effectiveness of marketing especially regarding areas without NBN and reliable internet access.	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>
3.5	Review and ensure funding/grant processes are: more flexible, easier to access and include support people to help prepare applications.	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Immediate and ongoing	Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p>



					Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a> ..
3.6	<p>Simplified access to Commonwealth and State funding and grants assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Less Red Tape</li> <li>○ More one-on-one conversations</li> <li>○ Aim to keep farmers on the land</li> <li>○ Shorter, simpler application forms</li> <li>○ Encourage government departments to share information with each other so that applicants aren't providing repetitive information</li> <li>○ That an address is in a drought declared region should be obvious</li> </ul>	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Immediate and ongoing	Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>..</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure consistent information is provided by online, call centres and in-person with department officers</li> <li>○ Have a goal of <i>helping</i> people meet eligibility.</li> </ul>				
3.7	Reduce red tape and regulation that restricts farmers from drought-proofing such as drilling new bores water, vegetation clearing to increase grazing areas, etc.	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Immediate and ongoing	<p>Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.</p> <p>This may apply to grazing areas, use of vegetation for feed, access to water including allocations, etc</p>	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley’s support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>..</p>

3.8	Help new businesses to start up with minimal delay and bureaucracy	Commonwealth, State and Local Governments via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	<p>Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.</p> <p>Review red tape and length of assessment periods</p>	<p>LVRC has developed a reference toolkit for new business enquiries, refining information resources and responses.</p> <p>In response to the Covid-19 emergency the Queensland Government has made changes to streamline aspects of the planning system and further changes are proposed.</p> <p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on any improvements which can be directed to Council</p>
-----	--	---	---------------------	---	---

					via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a> .
3.9	Support diversification and off-farm work through initiatives such as streamlined RPL (recognition of prior learning/existing skills)	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>Participants in Council Riparian weed management project funded by the Australian Government were trained and certified in skills that could be used as independent contractors. Several participants have now established their own businesses to supplement their farm income.</p> <p>Council is facilitating the Queensland Government Regional Skills Investment Strategy (RSIS) in the Lockyer Valley. The scheme assists communities to identify current and emerging jobs in key industries and ensure there is a supply of skilled local</p>

					people to meet this demand.
3.10	Review duration of financial assistance noting that even when rains come it will take time for productivity and income to be restored and that ongoing help (subsidies) will still be required	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Medium to Long-term	Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>This Action Plan has been provided to local Federal and State Members and relevant Ministers and members of the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce to ensure awareness of Lockyer Valley's support needs and preferences.</p> <p>As of August 2020, most support programs are still in place.</p> <p>Council would appreciate community feedback on how this is being experienced in the community which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>

4. Community Awareness					
#	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Comments	Actions Taken to Date
4.1	Gain media support to raise community awareness of drought conditions and impacts on Lockyer Valley farmers, families and the wider community including utilising local credible spokespeople	Working Group to be established with leadership from Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Immediate and ongoing	Working Group to seek the support of local and regional media outlets to promote the plight of local farmers and businesses. Council and farmers to work together in developing fact-based personal interest stories.	<p>Council has not received any interested from farmers or relevant community members to be part of a working group.</p> <p>Both Council and farmers have had a range of articles published in various media to highlight the needs of the Lockyer Valley.</p> <p>Local and regional media have been supportive, and some stories have received national attention via major news outlets.</p> <p>Council's Local Drought Support Officer may be able to organise a working group if there is appropriate interest from drought-affected farmers which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>

4.2	Gain media support to lobby State and Federal Government for increased support and assistance for farmers and communities	Working Group to be established with leadership from Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Medium to Long-term	Working Group to seek the support of local and regional media outlets to promote the plight of local farmers and businesses. Council and farmers to work together in developing fact-based personal interest stories.	<p>Council has not received any interested from farmers or relevant community members to be part of a working group.</p> <p>Council has advocated strongly to Federal and State governments on local issues.</p> <p>Local State and Federal Members have regular contact with the farming community and take issues to relevant levels of government and the media.</p> <p>Council is interested in community feedback on improvements and those interested in involvement which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>
4.3	Raise the concerns of drought-affected communities to the more urban parts of South East Qld	Working Group to be established with leadership from	Medium to Long-term	Working Group to seek the support of major media outlets to promote the plight of local farmers and businesses. Council	Any farmers interested in involvement should contact Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a> and

		Lockyer Valley Regional Council		and farmers to work together in developing fact-based personal interest stories.	if interest is strong Council will review support resources.
4.4	Develop a media campaign to educate the wider community on perceptions of water wastage and water conservation	Working Group to be established with leadership from Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Medium to Long-term	Working Group to investigate and promote campaigns focused on encouraging water restrictions in urban areas, education on farm water usage and needs, etc.	<p>Urban Utilities have been running water conservation campaigns for the greater South East Qld region. This is not directly related to rural water issues and perceptions however it does keep water security issue in the public mind.</p> <p>Perceptions of farm water usage would be included in any campaigns such as Action Item 4.3.</p> <p>Any farmers interested in involvement should contact Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a> and if interest is strong Council will review support resources.</p>



4.5	Raise awareness on how people can direct their donations specifically to the Lockyer Valley	Working Group to be established with leadership from Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Immediate and ongoing	Working Group to promote charities that can direct donations to the Lockyer Valley.	Council discussed this item with major and local charities and promoted on Council's website those charities that could target donations to specific areas. It was also noted that the Lockyer Valley benefits from donations made by people in other parts of Australia and should be cautious about promoting the concept of keeping donations local.
-----	---	--	-----------------------	---	---

5. Future Drought Resilience					
#	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Comments	Actions Taken to Date
5.1	Establish a local Drought Resilience Working Group	Initiated by Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Medium Term	Working group could include a range of local farmers, technology and industry representatives, UQ Gatton, Lockyer-Somerset Water Collaborative, SEQ Water, QUU, etc	Council's Local Drought Support Officer can facilitate a working group if there is an appropriate level of interest from relevant local stakeholders which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a> .
5.2	Investigate options to improve drought-resilience for the region	Working Group	Medium to Long-term		Council is a lead partner in the <a href="#">Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative</a> which is actively working on long-term water security for the region.  Council is also a partner in the Council of Mayors South East Queensland (COMSEQ) <a href="#">Resilient Rivers Initiative</a> which aims to good quality soil on our land and improve long-term water security.

					Note that the Federal Government has several initiative including funding focused on drought resilience including <a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/future-drought-fund">https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/future-drought-fund</a>
5.3	Investigate, promote and lobby for (if necessary) subsidies for on-farm water storage and efficiencies including subsidies for loan principal and interest repayments	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Immediate to Medium-term	Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	Note that the Federal Government has several initiatives including funding focused on drought resilience including <a href="https://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/national/on-farm-infrastructure-rebate">https://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/national/on-farm-infrastructure-rebate</a>  Queensland Government schemes can be found at <a href="https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/drought/assistance/dras-subsidies">https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/drought/assistance/dras-subsidies</a>

5.4	Investigate, promote and lobby for (if necessary) financial subsidies for freight for fodder and water deliveries	Commonwealth and State Governments via elected representatives	Immediate to Medium-term	Table this initiative at relevant opportunities such as parliament, Joint Agency Drought Taskforce, etc.	<p>Queensland Government schemes can be found at <a href="https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/drought/assistance/dras-subsidies">https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/rural-disaster-recovery/drought/assistance/dras-subsidies</a></p> <p>Other support measures can be found on Council's website at <a href="https://www.lockyvalley.qld.gov.au/our-region/drought-support/">https://www.lockyvalley.qld.gov.au/our-region/drought-support/</a></p>
5.5	Investigate feasibility of extending water mains further into rural areas for added water filling stations (eg, standpipes)	Queensland Urban Utilities (QUU) via Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Immediate to Medium-term	Council to continue discussing feasibility with QUU	<p>Council held discussions with Urban Utilities (the water provider) to determine the viability of extending water mains so that standpipes could be closer to outer rural areas, and to reduce the cost of water at filling stations.</p> <p>Urban Utilities advised Council that extended mains and</p>

					<p>standpipe locations is not viable.</p> <p>Charities that assist with the cost of water have been promoted.</p> <p>Council installed drought support information packs at all public standpipe locations in the region so that facility users had easy access to support information and services. It is noted that these information packs were often removed and needed replacing.</p>
5.6	Review farming practices regarding feed conversion by storing feed in good seasons and note that even when rains come it will take time for productivity to be restored	Farmers	Long-term	Farmers to share ideas, and seek support from peak farming bodies	<p>Council has liaised with <i>Healthy Land and Water</i> and DAF for the delivery of farm practice workshops however COVID restrictions resulted in schedule changes. This will be rescheduled once COVID-Safe restrictions allow.</p> <p>Council has a drought support expo planned for November</p>

					2020 which will include some information on farm management practices.
--	--	--	--	--	--

6. Other					
#	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Comments	Actions Taken to Date
6.1	Lobby for the development of a (national?) database of drought affected/non-affected areas of Queensland and NSW so that farmers have a better idea of where they may be able to sell/buy stock from	Farmers to review existing drought map website	Medium to Long-term	This is currently available at: <a href="https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/domestic-policy/national-drought-map-now-available">https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/domestic-policy/national-drought-map-now-available</a>	This is currently available at: <a href="https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/domestic-policy/national-drought-map-now-available">https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/domestic-policy/national-drought-map-now-available</a>

6.2	Investigate the feasibility of <i>Why Leave Town?</i> -type local business gift card that keeps money local	Working Group	Medium to Long-term	<p>Council submitted this as a project to the Commonwealth Drought Communities Programme funding but was unsuccessful.</p> <p>Lockyer Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry has since established a local card for member's businesses.</p> <p>Council is interested in community feedback on the use and benefits of this program which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>	<p>Council submitted this as a project to the Commonwealth Drought Communities Programme funding but was unsuccessful.</p> <p>Lockyer Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry has since established a local card for member's businesses.</p> <p>Council is interested in community feedback on the use and benefits of this program which can be directed to Council via 1300 005 872 or <a href="mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au">CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>.</p>
-----	---	---------------	---------------------	--	--

For more information on this Plan please contact:

Community Activation  
Lockyer Valley Regional Council  
PO Box 82  
Gatton Qld 4343  
E: [CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:CETeam@lvrc.qld.gov.au)  
P: 1300 005 872

Ref: ECM 3864454