

IT'S NOT OVER! DROUGHT-AFFECTED FAMILIES STILL NEED HELP

While some areas of NSW have turned a shade of green after recent rain, the relief has been short-lived with **98.6 per cent of the state still drought declared**. The devastating drought continues and your help is needed!

Drought-affected families are in desperate need of support, and you can see exactly what they need at givit.org.au

National online charity GIVIT, an official partner with the NSW Government, is continuing to manage offers of assistance for farmers, their families and rural communities experiencing hardship.

GIVIT's Drought Manager Scott Barrett said while recent rain has been welcome, farmers across the state were still doing it incredibly tough.

"The sporadic recent welcome rain has helped some regions in the short term but the crippling drought continues particularly across vast areas of the far west. It's certainly not over and a tough winter is ahead with poor pasture growth and a severe shortage of traditional stock feed," he said.

Mr Barrett said it was important that Australians donated the right way to drought relief to ensure support got to where it was needed most.

"GIVIT has coordinated the delivery of more than 23,000 vital items for drought relief. We have worked very effectively across drought-affected region since August last year, In NSW GIVIT has supported 140 charities and community groups who work with residents in drought regions and have been able to make a real difference but so much more help is needed.

"Sending in carloads of unsolicited food hampers and other items to drought-stricken towns is well meaning but it's not the help that's needed. A donation to GIVIT's NSW Drought Appeal at givit.org.au allows us to buy vital, specifically requested items within the local communities to also support struggling small businesses in the towns."

GIVIT works with charities on the ground, big and small, to provide what communities need. Items provided by GIVIT have included vouchers to purchase food items, water, clothing and fuel, rural supplies, school uniforms, tractor tyres, whitegoods, items to keep sports and social programs afloat to support social connectivity in towns.

One hundred per cent of cash donated to GIVIT's Drought Appeal will go directly to purchasing items for those most in need.

GIVIT Founder and Director Juliette Wright said Australians had opened their hearts to drought-affected residents but more financial support was urgently needed to continue supporting regional and rural communities who were in dire need.

“Making a donation for a gift card to be spent locally within a struggling community will have far more impact on someone in need and on a local business than a load of unwanted items being delivered to a struggling town,” she said.

“GIVIT is empowering people in drought-affected communities by providing exactly what they need and often these items are quite unexpected. It could be a set of tyres for a ute, a replacement hot water system because they are having to take cold showers in winter or even essential school items.”

If you want to really help drought-affected communities visit givit.org.au/drought to see what is needed and pledge items or money. We also encourage all charities, schools and community services to request items for the people they support via givit.org.au.

- The latest NSW Combined Drought Indicator reveals the state continues to experience prolonged and widespread drought with 98.6 per cent still in drought.

For more information, contact media@givit.org.au or phone 0444 503 759

About GIVIT

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website givit.org.au, trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than 1,200,000 items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items. Since then GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and has already distributed more than 211,000 items after 2019 Queensland flooding. GIVIT distributed more than 16,000 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017's Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia's Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen's Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia's Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.