The Agriculture Bushfire Recovery Plan sets out the broad framework and priorities for targeted sector-wide industry recovery post the 2019-20 bushfires. This recovery plan covers the following targeted sectors – Dairy, Apiculture, Aquaculture and Viticulture.

This Plan has been developed to support the implementation of the Bushfire Industry Recovery Package, which is a $140 million investment by the NSW Government for critical regional industries, to support the creation and retention of jobs and strengthening of local supply chains.

This Plan is intended to serve as a guide for industry applicants to the Bushfire Industry Recovery Plan to identify projects to put forward through the sector development stream of the Package.
Summary of agriculture’s contribution in NSW

Economically important
- In 2017–18, the gross value of agricultural production in NSW was $13 billion
- NSW accounts for 23% of Australia’s total gross value of agricultural production ($59 billion)

Large proportion of workforce
- The agriculture industry is responsible for direct employment of 63,310
- Approximately 7% of the workforce in bushfire affected regions is in Agriculture

Diverse range of industries
- Sheep, Grains, Beef and Dairy Cattle
- Poultry and Other Livestock
- Aquaculture
- Fishing, hunting and trapping
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services
- Dairy Product Manufacturing
- Processed Seafood Manufacturing
- Meat and meat product manufacturing
- Grain mill and cereal product manufacturing
Overview of agriculture industries in NSW

Agriculture in NSW is characterised by a diverse range of industries. The industries covered by this package are specialised and largely capital-intensive. Agriculture contributes roughly $3.2B gross value add to the bushfire affected regions, on average 5% of total GVA. About 7% of the workforce in the bushfire affected regions work in agriculture. Domestic and international markets rely heavily on outputs from these targeted agricultural sectors.

It is estimated that close to 16,000 agricultural properties have been impacted. Damage includes extensive loss of on-farm infrastructure, livestock losses and damage to pastures and fencing to the value of over $1 billion.

These identified targeted industry sectors within agriculture have been significantly impacted by the recent bushfires, compounded by drought impacts and require a targeted approach to recovery. An economic impact assessment of the bushfires has identified the following key sectors as impacted within the agriculture industry.

- Dairy Farming
- Aquaculture
- Viticulture
- Apiculture
Impacts across the sector

Dairy
$568 million output

- Reports indicate that significant stock losses have occurred in bushfire affected regions and that at least 30-40 farmers have been directly impacted, with losses of key infrastructure (such as fences), sheds, fodder reserves, stock and pasture.
- Heifer losses and inability to replace stock have been identified as major issues, which will effect ability to replace stock levels.
- This will lead to ongoing issues with maintaining supply and result in reduced output.

Aquaculture
$181 million value

- The bushfire season had severe impacts to oyster businesses including transport network disruptions limiting access to markets and wind-blown ash, debris and sediment from fires running into oyster producing estuaries and catchments.
- The ash and sediment caused poor water quality, leading to the suspension of harvesting, and losses in some areas.
- There were also major productivity declines through decline in consumer demand and tourism, which generates many of the sales that the industry relies upon.
Overview of agriculture industries in NSW

Viticulture
$235 million value

- Around 34,000 hectares of land is used for NSW vineyards. The bushfires resulted in significant and widespread damage to the viticulture industry due to large dispersed and prolonged exposure of grapes to smoke plumes and resultant smoke taint.

- There will be a significant reduction in marketable product from the 2020 vintage. This will have a significant effect on both the domestic and international export markets and the tourism sector.

Apiculture
$36 million value

- The honey bee industry has also been impacted with direct losses to hives, as well as an estimated 50% reduction in state forest sites and 35% reduction in national parks sites.

- Without sufficient bee sites and native floral resource, beekeepers will struggle to build up hive strength and numbers for pollination, jeopardising fruit and net set for major horticultural crops such as almonds, apples, cherries and blueberries in the coming years.
There are four themes that represent the economic impact to the four targeted industries in the agriculture sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic impact to businesses</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate economic impact</td>
<td>Asset/herd loss</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Product damage/destruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss of productive assets</td>
<td>Critical Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Insufficient food/fodder</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Immediate economic impact
- Livestock lost, reducing current and future productivity
- Fish kills due to water contamination, limiting output
- Bee hives and colonies destroyed
- Grape vines destroyed in some areas
- Smoke taint and heat damage destroyed significant viticulture production
- Dumping of milk production during fire
- Honey products lost with destroyed hives
- Significant short term disruption to operations due to fencing loss
- Material cost and opportunity cost to replace lost infrastructure
- Reduction in pasture recovery due to loss of fencing infrastructures
- Loss of key crop infrastructure such as trellis, netting etc.
- Pasture damage resulting in sub-optimal feed availability
- Loss of on-farm fodder reserves
- Insufficient food for livestock in many areas during fires reducing productivity
- Loss of floral resources impacting on productivity.

### Loss of productive assets
- Livestock lost, reducing current and future productivity
- Fish kills due to water contamination, limiting output
- Bee hives and colonies destroyed
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### Critical Infrastructure
- Damage to pastures / soils
- Buildings essential to economic productivity destroyed (e.g. dairy, fodder and handling facilities etc.)
- Loss of capacity due to lost income from stock and product loss
- Water supply interrupted by destruction of pasture and crop irrigation systems and supply water systems (e.g. pumps, holding tanks etc.)
- Transport routes cut off, limiting production or ability to mitigate losses by moving stock or hives
- Productivity reduced by inability to access fodder, a critical resource for productivity
- Access to skilled workforce has slowed production

### Insufficient food/fodder
- Fish kills due to water contamination, limiting output
- Bee hives and colonies destroyed
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### Access issues
- Water supply interrupted by destruction of pasture and crop irrigation systems and supply water systems (e.g. pumps, holding tanks etc.)
- Transport routes cut off, limiting production or ability to mitigate losses by moving stock or hives
- Productivity reduced by inability to access fodder, a critical resource for productivity
- Access to skilled workforce has slowed production

### Longer term impact
- Reduced total marketable product due to productive asset damage
- Slow herd recovery period where impacted

### Loss of supporting infrastructure
- Damage to pastures / soils
- Buildings essential to economic productivity destroyed (e.g. dairy, fodder and handling facilities etc.)
- Water supply interrupted by destruction of pasture and crop irrigation systems and supply water systems (e.g. pumps, holding tanks etc.)
Immediate action is needed to support the industry

- The existing supports available do not reflect the scale and extent of damage to the industry. Without assistance the industry will continue to experience production issues, declining output, and the industry will not survive.

- Government assistance will fast track recovery by enabling the industry to return to productive operating levels. Government assistance will enable investment in assets and infrastructure and support the industry to address production issues.

- This will reduce the immediate strain on all aspects of the supply chain and ensure key economic outputs and jobs are maintained.

- Reduced outputs have impacted heavily on the supply chains and ability to return to usual operating levels. This will remain an issue in the medium and long term if assistance is not provided.

- Without assistance the industry will not bounce back and this will create significant and longstanding issues for employment, consumer supply issues, and industry viability.

- Government assistance will enable immediate recovery of operations, and will also provide the opportunity to pivot and diversify so that supply is maintained.

- The bushfires have caused sector wide disruption. This requires a sector wide approach.

- Without government assistance production and supply issues will continue and supply chains will fail.

- Sector wide development will support all aspects of the industry to remain viable and resilient. Government assistance will deliver a sector wide recovery pathway to ensure the industry remains viable in the long term.
Approach to recovery for dairy, aquaculture, viticulture and apiculture

**Objective**
Support recovery of the agriculture industry and ensure longer term productivity and resilience

**Priorities**
1. Support for immediate operation
2. Replanting & infrastructure repair
3. Support operators build skills and diversify business
4. Industry and supply chain development

**Stakeholders**
- Growers & Employees
- Packaging companies
- Industry associations
Existing bushfire recovery measures in 2019-20

- Grants of up to $75,000 for eligible primary producers
- Special Disaster Loans up to $50,000 (working capital) or $500,000 (recovery)
- $5,000 per kilometre for the purchase of materials to rebuild existing fences adjoining public lands
- Rebate of up to $1,200 for smoke taint testing per grower/producer of wine grapes
Potential recovery priorities will drive recovery and promote a resilient and professional agriculture industry over time

### Agriculture priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Immediate support</th>
<th>Short &amp; medium-term rebuild</th>
<th>Long-term transition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Next ~6 months</strong></td>
<td>Continue existing financial relief (e.g. primary producer grants)</td>
<td>Support for ongoing operations and supply chain disruptions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6-18 months</strong></td>
<td>Support workforce recovery and skills development</td>
<td>Support development of value adding farm-based adjacent lines of business</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18 mths -3 years</strong></td>
<td>Regenerate affected natural assets (e.g. soil, pasture &amp; water quality, and sick/affected animals)</td>
<td>Support herd rebuild and related breeding programs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Repair supporting infrastructure (pumps, irrigation, milking facilities)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support production resilience planning and output improvement</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Support for immediate operation

- Continue existing financial relief (e.g. primary producer grants)
- Support for ongoing operations and supply chain disruptions
- Rebuild essential operational assets (operational buildings etc.)

### Regeneration and supporting infrastructure repair

- Regenerate affected natural assets (e.g. soil, pasture & water quality, and sick/affected animals)
- Support herd rebuild and related breeding programs
- Repair supporting infrastructure (pumps, irrigation, milking facilities)
- Support production resilience planning and output improvement

### Support operators to build skills and diversify business

- Support for management, resilience and contingency planning education for businesses
- Diversify operations across supply chains
- Support appropriate production diversification education
- Integrate with other local industries (e.g. agri-tourism)

### Industry and supply chain development

- Support workforce recovery and skills development
- Support development of value adding farm-based adjacent lines of business
- Engage and support domestic and international consumer demand
- Research to adopt enhanced practices (e.g. bushfire agronomy)
- Support supply, demand and job retention through strategic business development and infrastructure
- Support producers source alternative supply out of region (e.g. out of region grapes for wine, milk for cheese produces etc.)

**NSW Government**

**NSW Regional**