

Official Statement: Support for communities affected by bushfire and drought

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW <enquiries@rasnsw.com.au>

To: HUNTERVALLEYABA@gmail.com



RAS Statement

Dear Valued Exhibitor

Many regional and rural communities have been directly affected by the current bushfires and on-going drought which have caused great devastation throughout New South Wales.

In a bid to best support these communities, many of which are home to competitors and exhibitors like yourself, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) will be focusing on the recovery efforts required once the immediate threat of fire has passed.

This year the RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant program will be directed to projects and communities affected by bushfire and drought, with applications open until 1 March 2020 ensuring those that need it most have sufficient time to apply.

Over the coming weeks, the RAS will meet with The Hon. Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW in order to discuss ways we can work together to offer greater support to regional and rural areas.

The 2020 Sydney Royal Easter Show will become a platform for the RAS to help bring attention to the damage caused by bushfires and drought. Following

discussions with the NSW Rural Fire Service, the Show will pay tribute to our fearless RFS Volunteers, while simultaneously supporting our exhibitors and rural community with mental health support and encouraging a greater sense of community gathering throughout the Show. To accompany these activities, initiatives including the Big Bush BBQ will be utilised to directly benefit regional Show societies affected by fire or drought.

I have no doubt we will continue to see the impacts of these catastrophic bushfires emerge over the coming weeks and in that time the RAS will continue to create opportunities to further assist bushfire and drought relief. The road ahead will not be easy but it is during this time the RAS will continue its mission to support and help rebuild strong, vibrant and resilient rural and regional communities.

Yours sincerely




Brock Gilmour, Chief Executive
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

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