



MPI animal welfare: 0800 00 83 33, option 2.

28 February 2019

The Tasman district is under drought conditions.

Here is the latest information from MPI, and some general reminders for anyone affected by fires, coping with drought conditions, and planning ahead in case you become affected.

While the state of emergency declaration has been lifted and notice of transition to recovery has been issued; there is still an extreme fire risk across the Nelson Tasman region and we urge residents to stay on alert and be prepared to evacuate.

This document helps you with some options and contact points.

Stay prepared

Have a plan in place that includes your animals. If you need to evacuate:

- Take pets with you – if you can do so safely – or take them to a safe place. Do not leave pets in cars.
- If you need to leave animals at your property, make sure they have access to 2-3 days of food and water, are in a safe space (such as a paddock with little to no grass or near a waterway) and can move to avoid danger.
- Consider opening gates within your property so that outdoor animals can move away from the fire. Do not open gates on to roads.
- Remove any flammable or heat-sensitive gear from your animals while the fire risk is still high, especially those with polyester or metal on them like horse rugs and halters.

The Richmond Showgrounds has returned to normal operations – the animal shelter has closed. For concerns about animals, phone the MPI animal welfare line - 0800 00 83 33, (2).

What are my options for stock?

You have some options to help your animals get through a drought in good condition.

If you don't have enough feed or water, buying it in is possible. But plan for the long run. What if there is no rain in a month, for example? What are your trigger points to make decisions?

You might be surprised at how much water animals need per day, especially when the weather is hot. If you can't provide enough food and water to keep your animals healthy and in good condition, you will need to reduce the number of animals on your block.

See if you can have animals moved somewhere with less pressure on water or feed. Talk to friends and neighbours, or speak to Federated Farmers who match grazing and feed needed with offers from farms around the region in adverse events. You will need to arrange a contract with the grazing provider and organise the transport.

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Depending on your situation, you may need to look at selling your animals or sending them to the works. There is a list of works and agents below. There can be a backlog of several weeks, and it's easier to sell animals in good condition, so make this decision sooner rather than later.

You will need to arrange transport for them, by you or a transport company, and you must make sure they are in a fit state to transport.

Feed and grazing requests – Federated Farmers

- The feedline service is available to anyone with stock. You don't have to be a Federated Farmers member to use this service.
- https://www.fedfarm.org.nz/FFPublic/Adverse_Events_Farmer_Support_and_Feedline.aspx
- Or call 0800 327 646, option 2
- Federated Farmers has put out a member's advisory today requesting extra grazing. So do call or mail in and see what may be available.

More drought advice

- For more advice about weathering a drought, see <https://beeflambnz.com/news-views/extreme-dry-management>, your breed associations, your vet, or MPI.
- For the **codes of welfare** for standards of care required for animals, go to <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/>
- For **animal welfare concerns** phone 0800 00 83 33 or email animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz.

Bringing in extra water

For more information on water contact TDC: 24-hours: 03 543-8400 info@tasman.govt.nz

- You can source water from areas where restrictions are not currently in effect. You will need to contact a tanker company to arrange this. These sites are already very busy.
- For stock water, you'll need to contact a tanker company / water carrier company to have it delivered. This is at your own cost to take care of your animals.
- Water rationing in Wakefield and Richmond means that water tankers cannot fill up in the normal permitted sites. Tapawera's water site is rationed only for human health needs (by application only), not for stock. Normal permits for Tapawera are no longer valid. Nelson is moving into further rationing and has stopped issuing permits.

TDC reminds people that filling up tanks or containers on the Wakefield and Richmond taps is not permitted. They will take steps to prosecute anyone putting the water supply at risk

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Water delivery companies

Company Name	Email	Mob	Address
Tasman Water Care Distribution	tony@bayscars.co.nz	021 493 491	152 Whakarewa Street Motueka 7120
Tasman Trucking Limited	water@tasmantrucking.nz	027 405 4280	5 Fenn Place Wakefield 7025
Hard Yards Water Delivery	info@hardyardsnelson.co.nz	027 288 5780	109 Redvale Road Redwoods Valley
Waterboy	mahana.tasman@hotmail.com	021 273 7666	198 Old Coach Mahana

Estimated water requirements for animals per day:

Beef cattle:	50 litres/day (yearlings 30 litres/day, calves 20 litres/day)
Dairy:	90 litres/day (for a 450kg cow)
Deer:	15 litres/day (for a 125kg adult)
Sheep:	7 litres/day (adult ewe without lambs)
Goat:	6 litres/day
Horse:	45 litres/day (grazing)
Pig:	15 litres/day (adult with no piglets)

Contacts for selling or sending animals to the works

- Contact any recommended stock agent
- Marlborough Sheep Saleyards 027 473 0835
- Sheep works – Alliance in Nelson are on reduced days due to water restrictions. Sheep from drought areas are a priority. Please book in and if you find something in the meantime you can cancel.
- Beef works – Taylor Preston in Ngauranga, Wellington. 04 472 7987
- ANZCO Kokiri: Beef bobby calves, closed but may open for high numbers. 03 762 5505
- Silver Fern Farms Hokitika: Beef 03 756 8380

Transporting animals

Work out where your stock will go, then talk to your transporter to make sure they are aware how they will be loaded, and when you will be onsite to help get this done.

The stock you want to transport must be fit for the journey. There are specific requirements and regulations relating to transporting stock. You can access an information booklet on the MPI website <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31749/loggedIn> which summarises the regulations, as well as guidance on the regulations at www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs#activities.

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You can also speak to your vet, or download a free app, Fit for Transport, to help ensure your animals are OK to transport. Go to the google Play Store or App Store to download the app.

Trucking companies

Sollys	027 246 2115
Mike Harper	027 496 0485
Stocklines	027 296 0875
East Coast	0800 800 024

Peter Gliddon	027 246 2115
Aarron Begg	027 541 2103
Broadbridge	03 572 8579

Maintaining NAIT records

Anyone in charge of cattle or deer must comply with NAIT regulations, even if you have just one animal. Register with NAIT <http://www.nait.co.nz/nait-basics/farmers-and-lifestylers/> Once you have registered you can apply for a NAIT number, which links you to the property where you are in charge of animals, and is in addition to a herd number. To meet your NAIT requirements, you need to: tag your animals with NAIT approved RFID ear tags; register your animals in the NAIT system; and record and confirm animal movements.

Biosecurity

- Use good normal biosecurity practices for people, vehicles and animals coming on or off farm. <https://beeflambnz.com/compliance/biosecurity>
- Try and make sure that feed sourced from off-farm is the right quality for your stock and doesn't contain seeds of weeds new to your farm.
- Register receipt of the feed so that if any pest species do slip in it's easy to follow up and resolve later on.
- Farms under controls for *Mycoplasma bovis* can talk to their ICP managers about permits required for moving stock. For any other questions about *Mycoplasma bovis* you can email info@mpi.govt.nz or call MPI on [0800 00 83 33](tel:0800008333).

Affected by Fire?

MPI's advice on caring for animals affected by fire is here <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/26533/loggedIn>.

If you have been affected by the fires, you can apply for some **reimbursement of costs** from the Mayoral Fund. Call 03 543 8400 <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/about-us/media-centre/news-and-notice/mayoral-disaster-relief-fund/>

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Fire suppressant and animal health

While current evidence does not suggest any significant effects of fire suppressants on animals, the chemicals in the suppressants do break down once they are in the soil. One of the break down products is nitrate.

When it rains, pasture plants will take up nitrates just as they do after fertilisers containing nitrogen are applied. This can cause spikes in nitrate levels in the plant material. High levels of nitrate can be toxic to livestock. However, given the short duration of application of the suppressant, the spike is unlikely to be any higher than normal application of diammonium phosphate fertiliser.

We encourage you to be vigilant and recommend:

- if in doubt analyse feeds and forages for nitrate, eg drought-stressed, small-grain
- observe stock frequently
- feed stock on dry hay or mature grass before immature cereal crops or root-crop tops
- feed only well-dried cereal hays
- prevent hungry stock from gorging recently sprayed weeds or highly fertilised crops;
- don't overstock risky pastures / grazing crops, which can result in more stalk material being consumed (the stalk contains the most nitrate in the plant). Avoid strip grazing
- don't graze high-nitrate pastures or crops for seven days after periods of rainfall, cloudy days, frosts, or high temperatures that cause wilting
- don't graze stock on high-nitrate pastures or crops during sunny afternoons (when the temperature is above 15°C) and remove them at night
- prevent access to high-risk weeds around yards/sheds
- feed risky material in small amounts diluted with safe feed, preferably high-carbohydrate feed such as grain (if accustomed to grain feeding), and gradually increasing the amount fed – this applies only to ruminants
- ensure that water does not contain high levels of nitrates
- don't feed green chop that has heated after cutting
- never feed mouldy hay.

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If you have any concerns, contact your veterinarian.

Veterinary Practices	
Halifax Veterinary Centre 205 Bridge Street Nelson 03 548 3871 info@halifaxvet.co.nz	Pet Doctors (Stoke) 214 Songer Street Nelson 03 547 7891 info@stokevets.co.nz
Victory Vets Limited 179 Vanguard Street Nelson 03 546 9646 pm@victoryvets.co.nz	Town and Country Vet (Nelson) 35 McGlashen Ave Nelson 03 544 1200 info@tcvet.co.nz
Animal Dermatology NZ 12 Poynters Crescent Nelson 03 548 3111 dgg@clear.net.nz	The Vet Centre Richmond & Motueka 79 Gladstone Road Richmond 03 544 5566 info@vetcentrerichmond.co.nz
The Rural Service Centre Veterinary Clinic 64 Meihana Street Takaka 03 525 8011 clinic.manager@rsc.co.nz	Brightwater Consulting Ltd 140 Lord Rutherford Road South Brightwater 03 542 3180 info@brightwaterconsulting.co.nz
Murchison Vet Clinic 80 Waller Street Murchison 03 523 9296	

People support

Sometimes it helps to talk through your thoughts with others.

Organisation	Telephone	Website
Rural Support Trust Supports farmers and growers	0800 78 72 54	http://www.rural-support.org.nz/Regions/South-Island/Top-of-the-South
Need to talk? Free calls with trained counsellors.	Text or phone 1737	
Local health support (Health Navigators)	0800 611 116 (8am to 5pm)	Email healthsupport@nbph.org .
Healthline	0800 611 116	https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/healthline