



Dear business owners,

We are all aware that NSW is struggling through one of the worst droughts on record, and it's not just our farmers being hit hard. The crippling effects have spread beyond the farm gate and are being felt by those in small business.

In July, the NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs, members of her team, and the Minister for Small Business Damien Tudehope, visited over 350 small businesses in drought affected areas of North West NSW. They were joined by representatives of the ATO, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the NSW Business Chamber. We heard people are doing it tough. We also heard stories of incredible personal resilience.

There are a range of services available to support you during this difficult time relating to cash flow, tax, energy costs, business strategy or disputes. These include:

- **Business Connect** – this government service provides tailored advice to business owners on a wide variety of topics including business strategy, operations, cash flow and cost savings. Advisors meet with you one of one, with the first four hours provided free of charge, to help identify what is best for your business.
- **Mediation Services** – the NSW Small Business Commission provides a free advice service on resolving business to business disputes. This could relate to suppliers, other businesses, or even local, state or federal government departments.
- **Tax advice** – the Australian Tax Office and Revenue NSW can help businesses with their tax obligations on a case by case business.
- **Energy savings** – a number of agencies or initiatives might be able to help businesses cut their energy costs.

You can find all the relevant information on support in the attached factsheet. Primary producers can continue to get specific information about conditions and assistance from the NSW Drought Hub website. We have also attached a flyer developed by the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program to help everyone check in with their mental health during tough times – please feel free to share both with your networks.

We will continue to advocate for tailored assistance to small businesses affected by the drought and welcome insights and suggestions. If you have any questions about support available please call us on 1300 795 534 or email [we.assist@smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au](mailto:we.assist@smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au).

Sincerely,

The team at the NSW Small Business Commission