

18 April 2019

## Drought Communities Programme Community Input Sought

Lithgow City Council has recently received a grant of \$1 million for Drought initiatives as a result of significant lobbying on behalf of our community by federal member Andrew Gee. Mayor Ray Thompson is seeking community input in addition to that recently provided by the NSW Farmers Association Hartley Branch with input by Hampton, Rydal, Capertee, Lidsdale, Portland and Wallerawang Communities.

"I refer interested members of the community to the following link https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/drought-communities-programme which contains information and the criteria to be applied to applications for monies under the Drought Communities Programme – Extension, which our Community now has access to as a result of the work undertaken by our Federal Member Andrew Gee." said Lithgow Mayor Cr Ray Thompson.

"Council only became aware of Andrew's success in gaining the grant in April 2019, and because of the tight time frames to expend the funds and complete all programs by 31 December this year, any submissions that comply with the criteria need to be with Council's Administration by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019." said Cr Thompson.

"We extend our sincere thanks to Andrew Gee for his efforts in this matter, which will significantly assist our Drought affected farmers and community generally" said Cr Thompson.

END

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