

The Big Dry

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Right now in Tasmania, it is raining hard. Farms are green, dams are full, and there is no shortage of anything. We are thriving. However, for much of mainland Australia, it is a totally different story. Farmers in New South Wales are battling a huge drought, they have been for years. It is everyone's job to help these people out. We need farmers, to feed us and also to sustain our economy. The drought is also taking a huge toll on farmers and their family's mental and physical health. The government and people of Australia need to do more.

Australians cannot live without farmers. It is all well and good to walk into a supermarket and buy your meat, your bread, your milk, your fruit, and your vegetables. For some people, the plastic packaging and grocery bags are all they know. But have you ever thought of where your food actually comes from? City dwellers can sit back in their deck chairs, in their tiny back yards, dining on cheese platters while listening to the neighbours' conversations. However, I will bet they never think of where the food in their hands comes from. Not only do farmers feed us, but they send a lot of their products overseas, to international buyers. Australia's beef trade market is booming, which is contributing greatly to the economy. Without farmers, our country would be nothing.

"Every day is one day closer to rain." These are the words of many very resilient farmers. Behind those brave faces though, are years of hurt, stress, anxiety, and depression. Families are struggling, mentally and financially. Some parents are even struggling to afford to feed their children, and are skipping meals just so their kids can eat. The small government assist payments will only go so far. A farmer's life is his land, his animals, the wildlife. For people to lose so much of that is taking a huge toll on many outback communities. Drought is the main reason outback folk leave the land, and with no rain in sight, and less help than what they need, many farmers are tempted to do just that. The drought is slowly tearing them apart.

The government and more fortunate people of Australia need to find it in their hearts to do more. The government not only needs to allocate more funds to farmers now, but they need to make long term plans, for future droughts. None of those farmers who are suffering asked for this drought, so why should we leave them to battle alone? If there is one things Australians are known for, it is helping each other out. We need to help out our fellow Aussies. This nation needs to unite, as we have done in the past, and do what we can to help those in need.

These drought affected farmers need help, and I believe it is everyone's responsibility to give them a hand. Think of the farmers, and how much we need them. Think of their families, their well-being. Most of all, think of what you can do to help, as every little donation makes a huge difference.