



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Drought assistance to stimulate local economy**

Drought assistance available to businesses and individuals affected by the devastating drought conditions can be used to stimulate our local regional economy.

Clare & Gilbert Valleys Mayor Wayne Thomas said the assistance of up to \$2,000 cash and \$1,000 in vouchers or as a direct payment to local businesses, was available on application through organisations like the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul through the Australian Government's Drought Community Support Initiative.

The latter payment could help retain spending in local communities, which would provide a welcome stimulus to the local district.

"Those affected by the drought including farm owners, vignerons, farm worker, contractors and farming reliant businesses should consider applying for the funding, which closes on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June," Mr Thomas said.

"The funds can be used to help pay for groceries, vehicle maintenance, school and education expenses, energy and utilities bills, health and medical expenses and so on."

Mr Thomas encourages anyone eligible to apply, as the funding would, in turn, be reinvested into our local businesses.

There is one payment available per household and applications need to live in the designated drought affected regions, including the Clare & Gilbert Valleys district.

Funding applications can be made online, with the form only taking a few minutes to complete.

Go to: [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au) and search for drought assistance, or <https://www.vinnies.org.au/drougthelpSA>

**ENDS**

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