



Gippsland Drought Employment Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1.) What is the Drought Employment Program?

The Drought Employment Program is an initiative led by the East Gippsland, West Gippsland and North East Catchment Management Authorities in partnership with Envite (a subsidiary of Workways Australia) to provide off farm employment opportunities for workers whose primary income has been impacted by the drought in Gippsland.

Interested parties will have the opportunity to participate in paid employment across East Gippsland and Wellington Shires, participating in projects that will improve the health of the catchment and local environment.

The new roles will be created to allow participants to have flexible work whilst maintaining current working commitments. Currently crews are working in the Sale, Bairnsdale and Omeo regions with opportunities to increase locations if there is demand..

2.) Who can apply?

The program is open to anyone who can demonstrate that their usual income has been affected by the current drought conditions in Gippsland. This may include farmers, farm workers, farm contractors, suppliers and employees in related industries.

Participants must be a resident of the East Gippsland or Wellington Shires. All participants will be required to carry out a Fit 2 Work check prior to commencing in programme.

3.) How can I apply?

Expressions of Interest for people interested in participating, and information can be downloaded from the Workways website at <http://www.workways.com.au/drought-employment>.



4.) What type of work will the role/s entail?

Participants will work across a range of projects that will improve the health of the catchment and the local environment, with a focus on revegetation, fencing, and pest and weed control. An example of the types of activities each team will undertake is listed below:

- a. **Sale region:** weed control, revegetation activities, fencing and landscape construction.
- b. **Bairnsdale region:** Weed control, revegetation activities, site maintenance, fencing.
- c. **Omeo region:** weed control, fencing and landscape construction..

5.) How many hours do I have to commit to and can I exit the program?

The off farm employment program recognises the commitment of farmers/farm workers/community members to on farm activities and the ongoing management of their land and businesses. The flexibility of the program means that workers can work as suits their current situation to provide additional income to their household. Typically, participants will be required to work an 7.6 hour day with each placement lasting a maximum of 8 weeks.

6.) What will I be paid?

You will receive a weekly wage based on the number of hours worked per week. Pay rates are above industry award and will include a casual loading.

The hourly rate of pay offered for this program for Natural Resource Management workers is \$28.41.

7.) Will I receive any formal training?

Within the programme you will be required to undertake formal training in First Aid and Chemical Users accreditation at no cost to the participant. Further individual training will be provided to participants to increase their skill set allowing further employment opportunities.