



## Rural Women, Drought and Climate Change

Rural women play a significant role in communities affected by drought and ongoing climate change. In these circumstances women in rural communities take on critical roles spanning family, business and the community, over and above the already heavy demands made on them. The Rural Women, Drought and Climate Change initiative is about local women working together and exploring partnerships that improve their family situation and community's wellbeing.

### Community Engagement Officers – Women and Drought

As part of the Victorian Government's strategy to support the needs of women in rural and regional areas, part-time *Community Engagement Officers - Women and Drought* have been employed in five rural regions in the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) Local Teams. These officers will facilitate opportunities for rural women from across their respective regions to meet, share information about local activities and approaches, and develop supportive networks to deal with drought and climate change.

There will also be a focus on connecting rural women to state and local government agencies involved in drought and climate change responses.

The *Community Engagement Officers - Women and Drought* within the Local Teams will:

- Build networks and support knowledge sharing across regions;
- Increase interaction and involvement between individuals and community groups;
- Build relationships within and across communities and organisations;
- Plan for the future;
- Build on local strengths and assets;
- Identify opportunities for new and improved links to drought information.

### Victorian Government support for rural women

The Victorian Government recognises and values the fundamental roles rural women play in strengthening and sustaining family farms, businesses and communities. DPCD supports networking between rural women through a central Rural Women's Network Coordination Unit (RWNCU). The RWNCU also helps to keep rural women informed and connected through a free quarterly newsletter, and regular updates of the events pages on the RWN website [www.ruralwomen.vic.gov.au](http://www.ruralwomen.vic.gov.au).

DPCD facilitates networking through its Local Teams in regional areas, which provide expertise and support for the development and implementation of a range of community strengthening initiatives. They broker and facilitate partnerships, encourage shared outcomes across government, business and community; and provide access to and information about government programs and services. The Local Teams also help communities develop grant applications.



## Community Engagement Officers – Women and Drought Contacts and Locations

DPCD Local Team and Office Location/s	Local Government Areas	Contact
<b>Hume</b> Wangaratta	Alpine, Benalla, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, Wodonga	<b>Barbara Martin</b> Mon - Wed  5722 7100 0419 360 148
<b>Loddon Mallee</b> Bendigo	Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mildura, Mount Alexander, Swan Hill	<b>Ellen White</b> Mon - Wed  5410 5200 0448 533 032
<b>Gippsland</b> Traralgon	Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, LaTrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington	<b>Lisa Price</b> Mon - Wed 5174 7308 0408 514 156
<b>Barwon South West</b> Geelong	Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Greater Geelong, Moyne, Queenscliffe, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast	<b>Catherine McFaul</b> Mon - Wed 5215 6000 0439 009 995
<b>Grampians</b> Horsham, Ararat  Ballarat	Ararat, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack  Ballarat, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Moorabool	<b>Janine Perry</b> Mon - Thurs 5362 1250 0439 019 584  <b>Contact Vincent Sully</b> 5327 2822 0439 379 580