



24 August 2018

### **Hunter Water to assist drought-affected communities**

Tankers have begun transporting drinking water to Upper Hunter communities affected by drought, thanks to Hunter Water and two Hunter councils.

The first tanker is on its way to three properties at Blandford and Murrurundi, with 25,000 litres of water.

Hunter Water has partnered with Newcastle and Lake Macquarie City Councils for the initiative, which will see drinking water made available to properties most in need across the Upper Hunter. These are properties which are not connected to a town supply and need to top up their rainwater tanks.

“We are working with the Department of Primary Industries, councils and community organisations to connect with those who are most in need of more water, and we will make water available to those property owners for a period of time, free of charge,” said Hunter Water Managing Director Jim Bentley.

“Our Upper Hunter neighbours are experiencing some of the worst drought conditions in the state. We’d encourage farmers in the Upper Hunter to contact us if they need drinking water.”

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin said the practical support would build on the impressive philanthropic efforts of the local community.

“The Hunter community’s support for local farmers in providing charitable donations and food and household supplies has been overwhelming, and it is great to see Hunter Water and Lake Macquarie and Newcastle City Councils adding to that by providing some water.

“This partnership will help our Upper Hunter farmers and their families get through what is likely to be a hot and dry summer,” said Mr Harwin.

The Lower Hunter community’s efforts to conserve water, together with the inroads Hunter Water is making to reduce leakage across its network, has also contributed to this initiative to help those most in need.

Hunter Water recognises that farmers in the Lower Hunter region may also be experiencing hardship and they are encouraged to contact Hunter Water on 1300 657 657.

The initiative will not impact the supply of water to Hunter Water’s existing customers.

For more information, visit [www.hunterwater.com.au](http://www.hunterwater.com.au)