

MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 13 November, 2019

DROUGHT RAVAGED COMMUNITIES TO BENEFIT FROM \$50,000 DONATION TO GIVIT FROM RACING NSW AND NSW BUSINESS CHAMBER

Farmers and families across drought-ravaged New South Wales will receive greater community support after Racing NSW and NSW Business Chamber donated \$50,000 to national charity GIVIT.

Official drought charity partner of the NSW Government, GIVIT's 'Drought Relief Appeal' has spent over \$300,000 in drought-affected areas since August 2018, purchasing and coordinating more than 100,000 item donations for 170 frontline charities working with struggling residents.

The sizable donation was raised by over 400 business leaders during the recent NSW Business Chamber and Racing NSW's 'Business of Racing' lunch on the day prior to the 2019 'The Everest'.

This donation, along with donations from the Australian public, will be used to meet the genuine needs of communities facing ongoing drought conditions, with a focus on purchasing items locally to also provide an economic benefit to struggling regional businesses.

GIVIT NSW Drought Relief Manager, Scott Barrett, said the generous donation will allow the charity to better meet the wide range of needs of vulnerable families, farmers and at-risk individuals.

"Communities across New South Wales are doing their best to soldier on through the increasing effects of drought," Mr Barrett said.

"We're here to help charities and frontline services get exactly what their regional and remote communities need, from a set of tyres for a ute and food for working dogs, to essential school items and uniforms."

"Already affected by one of the worst droughts on record, the bushfires are another bitter pill for communities across New South Wales. On top of the devastation caused, there are now even less opportunities for people struggling to find employment."

Board Director of NSW Business Chamber, Warrick McLean, said the Chamber's drought survey found 84% of regional businesses have been negatively affected by the State's crippling drought.

"Too often people forget the businesses in the towns need support, alongside our farmers. That's why we are proud to support GIVIT, knowing the products they purchase for those in need come from local businesses, providing a double benefit and keeping the money in town," said Mr McLean.

Director of Racing NSW, Dr Saranne Cook, said the organisation acknowledges the increasing troubles the drought is causing not only farmer, but entire regional communities and businesses.



GIVIT NSW Drought Relief Manager, Scott Barrett recently visited drought-affected communities in the Riverina and New England regions, donating hundreds of dollars in grocery vouchers and clothing from a national donor to families and farmers struggling with financial hardship.

Mr Barrett urged other charities and groups assisting drought-affected areas to register with GIVIT to request and receive vital items for their clients and communities.

“I’m working closely with local charities to identify the critical needs in Tenterfield to Bourke, and down to Wagga and Deniliquin, all the while making sure to purchase items and goods at local businesses who are also doing it extremely tough.”

GIVIT is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 2,800 charities across Australia. If you are a local charity or service, please register at givit.org.au/charity-registration.

***For more information or to arrange an interview please contact
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About GIVIT

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website givit.org.au, trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than 1,400,000 items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items.

Since then GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and has already distributed more than 212,000 items after 2019 Queensland flooding. GIVIT distributed more than 16,000 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017’s Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia’s Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen’s Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia’s Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.

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