



HASTINGS + HINTERLAND

TOWN & COUNTRY Ball

EVENT DETAILS

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Hastings + Hinterland Town & Country Ball, held on Saturday, 20th September 2025 at the Wauchope Showground. From 5:30pm, guests will gather under the stars for a night of celebration, community, and purpose.

Hosted by Dr Kristy Kostalas, the evening will feature live music, local entertainment, and a showcase of the Mid North Coast's generous spirit through auctions, raffles, and giveaways.

Guests will enjoy a warm country atmosphere paired with exceptional local food, wine, and hospitality, all in support of our region's flood-affected farming families and agricultural businesses.

This event isn't just a night out, it's a chance to stand together, give back, and help rebuild the heart of our community.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE WAUCHOPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

The Wauchope Chamber of Commerce & Industry has come on board as a key supporting partner for the Hastings + Hinterland Town & Country Ball. Rather than providing a traditional sponsorship, the Chamber is contributing valuable in-kind support by offering financial administration, compliance oversight, and fiscal governance for the event.

This partnership ensures all funds raised are managed with transparency, accountability, and integrity. By facilitating proper record-keeping, disbursement control, and reporting processes, the Chamber helps safeguard donor trust and ensures every dollar goes exactly where it's needed, into the hands of flood-affected farmers and small agri-businesses.

Beyond administrative support, the Chamber's involvement reflects a shared commitment to regional recovery, local leadership, and community-first initiatives. It's a model of how business networks can step up, not just with money, but with structure, expertise, and enduring local knowledge.



OUR GOAL

The Hastings + Hinterland Town and Country Ball is more than a celebration, it's a call to action. Our goal is to raise vital funds and awareness to support local farmers and agricultural businesses across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region who have been devastated by recent floods.

These events have left paddocks waterlogged, equipment damaged, and livelihoods under immense pressure. By coming together as a community, we aim to ease the burden, restore resilience, and ensure the future of our local agricultural sector remains strong.

Every ticket, donation, and auction bid tonight helps us move one step closer to that goal.

This isn't a handout. It's a hand-up.
Community backing Community.





FUNDING IMPACT: A REGION REPEATEDLY HIT

From 2020, the Mid North Coast hasn't just faced disaster, it's been in survival mode.

What began with the summer bushfires rolled into years of relentless flooding, and storm damage. From Wauchope to Rollands Plains, Beechwood to Telegraph Point, paddocks have been under water more often than not. Fences ripped out. Equipment buried in mud. Homes gutted. Generational farms on the brink.

- Our region has faced multiple declared natural disasters each year from 2020 to 2024 — with some farms hit more than five times.
- Across NSW, 73 major natural disasters have caused \$9 billion in damage — and our LGA sits right in the impact zone.
- In the 2021–2023 flood events alone, more than 20,000 properties statewide were damaged — thousands right here on the Mid North Coast.
- Recovery funding from the State and Federal governments, while significant, has been slow to access, complicated by red tape, and doesn't reach everyone.

Farms and small ag businesses in our region don't have corporate backing or PR teams. They have ageing tractors, damaged silos, and exhausted families just trying to keep the next generation on the land.

Many haven't recovered from the last flood before the next one hits. Government schemes help, but they don't go far enough, fast enough, or wide enough.

That's why this Ball exists.

Not just for glitz and glamour, but to say:

We see you. We back you. And we won't let you go under.

Every dollar raised goes to local farmers and ag-based businesses in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA through a transparent micro-grant process, overseen by an independent sub-committee.

Support may include:

- Emergency fencing and livestock aid
- Soil restoration and crop recovery
- Equipment replacement
- Mental health and wellbeing access
- Business continuity support

A REGION UNDER PRESSURE: 2020–2025

Natural disasters between 2020 and 2025 have turned a once-thriving Mid North Coast farming community into one defined by fire, flood, and an exhausting cycle of recovery.

Each year has brought new challenges:

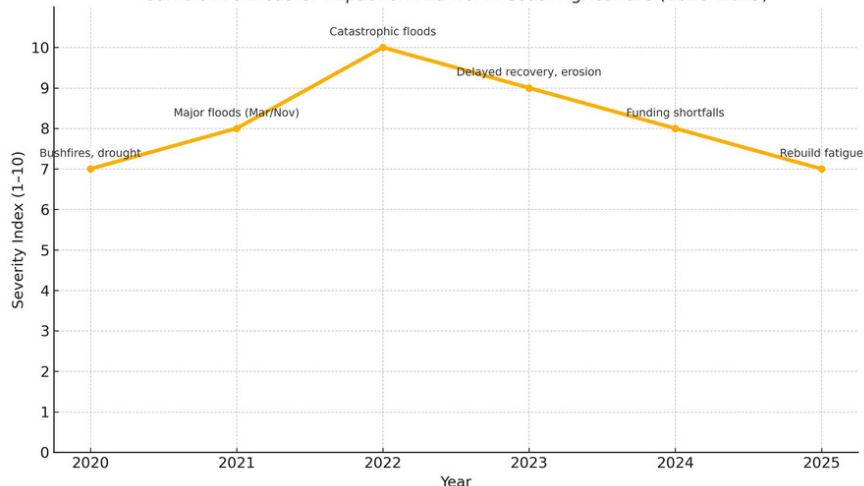
🔥 2020 began with bushfire recovery and drought fatigue

🌊 2021 and 2022 delivered back-to-back major flood events

💧 2023–2025 have been defined by stalled rebuilds, funding gaps, and rising operational costs

For local farmers and agricultural businesses, this hasn't been a single disaster, it's been a cumulative hit to land, livelihoods, and mental wellbeing. The Hastings + Hinterland Town & Country Ball is our community's response: practical, transparent, and locally led. Your support helps turn this five-year fight into a future worth rebuilding.

Cumulative Disaster Impact on Mid North Coast Agriculture (2020–2025)



ACCESSING SUPPORT

01 APPLICATION

Farmers and agricultural businesses affected by recent floods in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region will be invited to apply for financial assistance or in-kind support through a simple and transparent process following the event.

Applicants will be asked to complete a short online or paper-based form outlining:

- The nature and extent of flood-related damage or disruption
- The type of support needed (e.g. fencing, feed, equipment replacement, soil testing, mental health support)
- A brief declaration of impact, verified via photo evidence or existing insurance/assistance documentation where applicable

02 REQUIREMENTS

Applicants will be required to:

- Hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Demonstrate genuine agricultural activity within the PMHC Local Government Area
- Submit a brief impact statement outlining flood-related losses or needs
- Provide supporting documentation (e.g. photos, insurance claim summaries, supplier quotes, or relevant invoices)

Support may include fencing, feed, equipment, repair services, soil restoration, business recovery assistance, or health and wellbeing services.

03 GOVERNANCE & ASSESSMENT

Applications will be reviewed by a dedicated Flood Relief Sub-Committee, which will ensure decisions are transparent, fair, and community-driven.

The committee will include:

- Two representatives from the event organising team
- One independent accountant or legal advisor
- One community members with local farming knowledge

Distribution of funds may occur via direct payment, reimbursement, or coordinated delivery of goods/services depending on need and urgency.

We are committed to ensuring every dollar raised is used responsibly to rebuild and strengthen the future of farming in our PMHC LGA.

FUND DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

- Applicants must be primary producers or small agribusinesses located within the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA.
- Applications must demonstrate a genuine and direct impact from natural disasters since 2020 – including floods, bushfires, and droughts.
- Applicants to submit a declaration of Primary Production, and to provide evidence of such through Accountant prepared Financial Statements and./or Tax Returns showing Primary Production income of over \$20k within a tax return over a period of 3 years.
- Supporting documentation is essential. This may include financial statements, insurance assessments, photographs of damage, repair invoices, or BAS statements reflecting income loss.
- Applicants must be prepared to answer follow-up questions or provide clarification to the independent sub-committee if requested.
- Applications open for 4 weeks. All applications will be assessed within 4 weeks of the closing date.
- Funding is capped at a maximum \$5,000 per applicant, and only one application per Property and/or ABN will be accepted.
- Applicants who have not received significant State or Federal Government disaster funding will be given priority. Those who have received assistance may be eligible for partial support.
- An independent sub-committee will assess all applications using the scoring matrix below. All decisions are final.

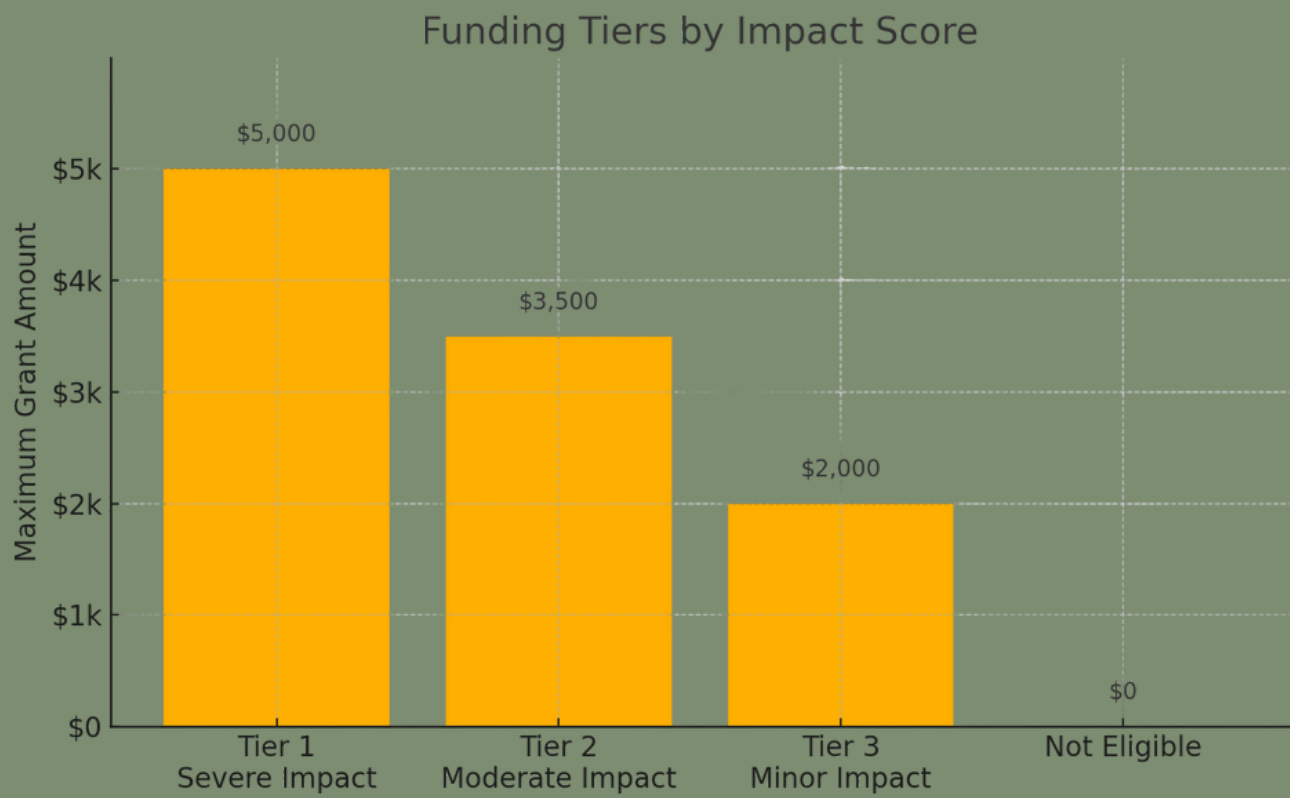
FUND DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES CONT..

ASSESSMENT & ALLOCATION MATRIX

Each application is scored across five key categories to determine the severity of impact and appropriate level of funding:

Category	Factors Considered	Score (1-5)
1. Financial Loss	Uninsured losses, repair costs, lost income	1-5
2. Infrastructure Damage	Fences, crops, sheds, machinery, livestock areas	1-5
3. Business Continuity Impact	Production loss, operational downtime, lost clients	1-5
4. Previous Assistance Received	Other grants or insurance payouts	1 (fully funded) – 5 (no assistance)
5. Ongoing Vulnerability	Future viability, existing debt, family reliance on business income	1-5

FUND DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES CONT..





THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH OUR FARMING COMMUNITY

This brochure is more than a guide, it's a symbol of what we can achieve together. Through your support, we're not only raising vital funds but also restoring hope, stability, and strength to the agricultural heart of the Mid North Coast.

Every partnership, donation, and bid helps us turn compassion into action, funding practical recovery for farming families and small agribusinesses who've weathered more than their share of hardship. From all of us involved in the Town and Country Ball, thank you for being part of a collective effort that's grounded in purpose, driven by community, and deeply connected to the land we all call home.

Together, we rebuild. Together, we grow.

