

Rating Year 2020/2021

APPLICATION FOR FARMLAND RATING

For land to be categorised as Farmland for rating purposes it must satisfy the criteria as set out in Section 515 of the Local Government Act 1993

“farm land” means a parcel of rateable land which is valued as one assessment and the dominant use of which is for farming which:-

- (a) has significant and substantial commercial purpose of character; and
- (b) is engaged for the purpose of profit on a continuous or repetitive basis.
(whether or not a profit is actually made).

“farming” means the business or industry of grazing, dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, viticulture, orcharding, beekeeping, horticulture, vegetable growing, the growing of crops of any kind, forestry, or oyster or fish farming within the meaning of the Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act 1935, or any combination of those businesses or industries.

“Commercial-Commerce” means the interchange of goods or commodities especially on a large scale

“Business” means the purchase and sale of goods and services in an attempt to make a profit.

The following questions have been structured to help you provide Council with the information required to evaluate your eligibility to receive Farmland rating. Your assistance in providing as much detail as possible would be appreciated.

The form consists of three parts:-

- (a) Property Information
- (b) Dominant use of the Land
- (c) Significant & Substantial Commercial Purpose or Character

Incomplete application forms will be returned to the applicant. It should be noted that all information contained in the application will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

“Drought Relief” As part of the Farmland Policy Council would assist ratepayer/farmers in relation to rates and charges during the times of a Drought.

“Drought” The definition of drought is a period of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in the water supply, surface water or ground water. A drought could last for month or years.

To assist Council in determining if an area is in drought access should be made of the Department of Primary Industries website and in particular the Combined Drought Indicator. There are six stages of drought and assistance will be made when the indicator shows Camden LGA is in the Intense Drought phase.

Intense Drought is where rainfall, soil water and plant growth are below the 5th percentile. Ground cover is very low, soil moisture stores are exhausted and rainfall has been minimal over the past 6-12 months.

In the event of an Intense Drought which effects primary producers in the Camden LGA and could continue for extended periods, Council would monitor the impact on individual farmers in relation to loss of stock, and damage to crops.

Council has adopted a Farmland Assistance Package

The Drought Relief Financial Assistance Package will include the following initiatives:

- Arrangements to pay rates over an extended period of time. Owners will be required to enter into a deed of agreement if rates remain outstanding for five (5) years
- No Interest payable or legal action would be taken to recover amounts outstanding from 2018/19 rating year
- No legal action for the recovery of outstanding amounts, while the area is declared in drought.
- Where stock levels or crop areas fall below the farmland rating policy thresholds, the property will remain eligible for farmland rating
- The above initiatives would continue for twelve months after the area is no longer declared in drought by the DPI

In the event of an extended period of assistance Council would require a signed agreement with the ratepayer, detailing the rates and charges overdue and that the amount owing should be paid once normal farming activities resume or the land is sold.

Under Drought conditions, the minimum area under cultivation or the minimum stock numbers could be reduced for a period.

Procedure

Council has 30 days to act on receipt of any application. An assessment is made and if an inspection is required, arrangements will be made via telephone to meet and review the details. If approved, Council will notify you in writing and the appropriate adjustment made to your rate account.

Notification will be sent if the application is declined stating the reason why. If you are not in agreement with Council's decision, a written request for a review can be made stating the reasons why. The application will be reviewed again and the property will be inspected.

If you are not satisfied with Council's review of the categorisation you may appeal to the Land & Environment Court of NSW within 30 days. You can contact the court on 02 9113 8200 to find out how to lodge an appeal.



IMPORTANT - The relevant documentation must be supplied with ALL applications

Type of Farming	Copies of documentation to be provided with application
Grazing	Copy of Local Land Service Rates Notice
Dairying	Copy of license for Dairy Farming with NSW Food Authority
Agistment	Copy of agreement/contract showing full details.
Viticulture	Proof of registration with the Wine Producers Assoc. or other appropriate body
Horticulture	Copy of agreement between grower & trader or statutory declaration indicating this agreement exists
Nursery products	Copy of documentation stating registered nursery
Beekeeping	Copy of registration with the Department of Primary Industry
Forestry	Copy of private forest approval from the Department of Primary Industries
Fish/Oyster Farming	Copy of aquaculture permit from the Department of Primary Industries
Pig Farming	Copy of Livestock Health & Pest Authority Rates Notice

PART 1 - PROPERTY INFORMATION

Include the details of all properties in Camden area that are used in conjunction with each other for farming purposes.

Lot/DP:

Property Address:

.....

Total Area of Property:

Is any part of your property located in the adjoining Council areas? YES / NO

If yes, please state which Council and the total area in that Council.

.....

Is there a dwelling on the property? YES / NO

If yes please state how many dwellings and if they are leased who manages the property.

.....

Is any part of the property not used as part of your farming enterprise? YES/NO

If Yes please supply details

.....

Is the property used for tourist activities/accommodation for Farmstays, B&BS etc? YES/NO

If yes, how often rooms are available and how often.....



Is this property leased? YES/NO

If yes, name of tenant

Name and Address of Managing Agent (if applicable)

.....

PART 2 – DOMINANT USE OF THE LAND

The information required in this section relates to the type of farming business being undertaken and the area of land dedicated to this production and/or number of livestock held.

NOTE- IF MORE THAN ONE ACTIVITY IS BEING CARRIED PLEASE LIST ALL DETAILS

GRAZING

Grazing is defined as - “animals that feed themselves by cropping the grasses or pastures (natural or improved). The word does not include the notion of feeding by eating hay, or any other produce taken from the soil by man.

Please state the percentage in the difference of Supplementary Feeding to Grazing.

Supplementary Feeding Grazing.....

Indicate numbers of livestock grazing on the property at the **date of this application**

CATTLE Number.....Breed.....

Is the property registered as a stud for cattle breeding? YES / NO

What is the maximum carrying capacity of stock on the property?

OTHER STOCK e.g. goats, alpacas, lamas, sheep etc

Number.....Breed.....

HORSES (other than Stud Farms)

Number.....Usage (stock, standard bred).....

What is the maximum carrying capacity of stock on the property?

Do you conduct a breeding program to improve the quality of the stock? YES / NO

Please complete the number of stock bought, raised and sold on the “Summary of Stock” table on page 5.



AGISTMENT

Do you permit livestock to be agisted on your property? YES/NO

If you answered yes to the above question:

- a. How many months each year or for what period?.....
- b. How much of you land is used for agistment?.....
- c. What is the agreed amount of income received for agistment?.....
- d. Who tends, cares for and has control of the agisted livestock whilst they are on your land?

.....

DAIRY CATTLE

Number..... Type.....

What is the maximum carrying capacity of stock on the property?.....

Does the Dairy have a milk quota? YES/NO

If yes please state the details.....

Please complete the number of stock bought, raised and sold on the “Summary of Stock” table on page 5.

DAIRY GOATS

Number.....

How many litres of milk were sold in the 12 months to 30 June this year for the consumption to market?

What was the average price per litre?

Please complete the number of stock bought, raised and sold on the “Summary of Stock” table on page 5.



PIG FARMING

Please provide details of number of pigs on the property **at the time of completing** this application.

Sows..... Piglets..... Boars.....

Are any of your stock used in medical research? YES/NO

If yes, please give details.....

.....

Please complete the number of stock bought, raised and sold on the "Summary of Stock" table.

SUMMARY OF STOCK - HELD FOR THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR

	Number of stock purchased	Natural increase / number born	Number of stock sold	Average sale price per head	Stock on hand
Cattle					
Dairy Cattle					
Sheep					
Goats					
Dairy Goats					
Poultry					
Alpacas					
Pigs					
Horses					
Others					



POULTRY

Please provide details listed below (Do not include poultry kept for domestic use)

	Number stock Purchased	Natural increase/number born	Number Sold	Average Price	Stock on Hand
Free Range Poultry					
Meat Poultry					
	Number Stock Purchased		Number of Eggs Sold	Average Price	Stock on Hand
Free Range Eggs					

FISH FARMING

Please provide details of quantity held and sold and any other relevant information to the Aquaculture business being conducted on the subject land.

	Number of Stock Purchased	Number of Stock Sold	Number of Stock Held
As at last financial year			
As at the time of completing this application			

Other relevant information.....

.....

.....



BEEKEEPING

Please provide the following details:

(a) Number of beehives in operation and for what periods of the year.....

.....

(b) Are beehives transferred to other properties during the year? If so, for what periods?

.....

(c) Provide details of honey/honey comb/etc extracted and sold during previous 12 months.

- (i) Honey.....
- (ii) Honey comb.....
- (iii) Other products.....

AGRICULTURE

CROPS/TREES	Specify What Type	Total amount of Produce Sold in the last financial year	Where produce is sold
Fruit Trees			
Vegetables			



TURF FARMING

Type of Turf	Total amount of Produce Sold in the last financial year	Where produce is sold

List any Licenses for Specialised Turf Varieties that you grow:

.....

.....

.....

List any Turf Associations that you are members of:

.....

.....

NURSERIES

Estimated Quantity of Plants Sold	Estimated Income	Locations where the plants are sold

Are you open to the public or only for wholesale?

.....

If open to the public what are the hours of trade?

.....



PART 3 – Significant & Substantial Commercial Purpose or Character

Are you a Primary Producer by the Taxation Department? YES/NO

Does your farming business have an A.B.N.? YES/NO

If yes please supply the number.

Is the property currently registered with the Rural Lands Protection Board? YES / NO

What records are kept to substantiate the business activity currently being conducted?

.....
.....
.....

Are you engaged in Primary Production? - FULL TIME / PART TIME

If part time please state approximately how many hours a week you work on the land

.....

Approximately what percentage of your household income is derived from your farming? activities?

Is the property presently divided into paddocks? YES / NO

If so, how many.....

List farm buildings (e.g. hay shed, machinery shed etc)

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.....
.....

List agricultural equipment held on the property.....

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.....



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If recently purchased please state any proposed changes that will incur in future years

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Additional information (includes any information which you may feel be relevant to the application e.g. proposed future development, membership to any farming organisation, weed control programs etc)

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.....
.....



Please provide a sketch of the property layout. For example, house, farming areas, sheds, crops.



STATUTORY DECLARATION

I,.....of.....
in the State of New South Wales, do hereby apply to have the following land declared farm land within the meaning of Section 515(1) of the Local Government Act, 1993 and sincerely declare and confirm that all the information submitted in support of this application is true and correct.

Assessment Number/s:

Owner/Applicant Name:

Postal Address:

.....

Occupation: Phone No.....

I make this solemn declaration according to law and subject to the punishment by law provided for any wilful false statement in any such declaration.

Taken and Declared at

in the State of New South Wales this

day of 20.....)

.....
Signature

I..... certify:

(* include only the text that applies)

1 * I saw the face of the declarant/deponent OR
* I did not see the face of the declarant/deponent because he/she was wearing a face covering, but I am satisfied that he/she had a special justification for not removing it, and

2 * I have known the person for at least 12 months OR
* I have confirmed the person's identity with.....

.....
Signature of JP

.....
Date

OFFICE USE ONLY	
DATE RECEIVED.....	RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE/REJECT
If rejected without inspections give a brief reason why.....	
.....	
COUNCIL OFFICER.....	NOTIFICATIONS SENT.....