

GIVIT supporting 100 charities through NSW drought

Online not-for-profit GIVIT marked a milestone this week after registering its 100th charity to receive support for communities during the unforgiving NSW drought.

The 100 charities and community groups across drought-affected areas of the state have been able to access vital items for their clients, free of charge, on the giving platform givit.org.au.

The 100th not-for-profit signed was recreational fishing conservation group, OzFish Unlimited.

GIVIT's NSW Drought Manager Scott Barrett said GIVIT had provided OzFish with \$1,000 worth of diesel vouchers for their generators that supply vital water aeration to areas of the Darling River at Menindee in NSW's far west.

The group has installed aerators in key weir pools along the river in a desperate bid to prevent further mass fish deaths.

Mr Barrett said the registration of the 100th charity was a momentous event for GIVIT after the NSW Government announced the not-for-profit as a charity partner to coordinate drought relief donations and services in August 2018.

"I joined GIVIT as NSW Drought Manager in October last year and I am so proud of the real difference GIVIT has made to the lives of so many individuals and charities still suffering in the drought," Mr Barrett said.

"The range of requests has been huge and it shows that different communities have different needs.

"We've seen school shoes and uniforms, air cons and fridges, work boots and dog feed; there's no standard need, and that's one of the great things about this model. We are providing the things people actually need. And we know that because it's what they are asking for.

"GIVIT has delivered hope and positive change to so many communities still struggling with the harsh effects of the drought. The donations of these vital items have changed lives."

Craig Copeland, CEO of OzFish, said he was thrilled to partner with GIVIT and grateful for the donation.

“Right across NSW, our fish habitats are being affected by this drought, obviously nowhere more evident than Menindee. To have someone offer this diesel to help keep these fish alive will make a huge difference,” Mr Copeland said.

“The GIVIT model is great for us as it is based around delivering what we actually need, and that will provide long-term benefits to the fish stock throughout this region.”

Mr Barrett, who is based in Orange, said it had been a rewarding role travelling through central and western NSW to raise awareness of GIVIT’s services and working closely with charities to find out the needs in the drought-affected communities they support.

“With GIVIT, I’ve been able to work with local charities and community groups who are doing amazing work to support their communities going through such a tough time.”

Mr Barrett will be in Menindee tomorrow (Feb 13) to purchase the diesel locally as well as meet members of Ozfish and other local charities. He is in Broken Hill today and will head to Griffith on Thursday (Feb 14).

If you want to help drought-affected communities visit www.givit.org.au/drought to see what is needed and pledge items or money. We also encourage all charities, schools and community services to request items for the people they support via www.givit.org.au.

**To arrange an interview with Scott Barrett,
contact media@givit.org.au or phone 0444 503 759**

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. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods since then GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and most recently ensured that 87,000 items made their way to people in need after Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and CEO 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.