


# THE COMMUTE CONUNDRUM: IS ON-FARM ACCOMMODATION THE ANSWER FOR YOUR RURAL WORKERS?

Long commutes can drain your rural workers' energy and productivity. Discover how on-farm accommodation could improve safety, morale, and efficiency on your farm.

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## The Commute Conundrum: Is On-Farm Accommodation the Answer for Your Rural Workers?

For many Australian farms and other agricultural entities, the question of worker accommodation is a balancing act. Long commutes can tire rural workers out, cost time and money, and reduce productivity. On the flip side, investing in on-site accommodation comes with its own set of considerations.

How do you decide? Let's unpack this question in a way that makes sense for hardworking owners who value both practicality and their workers' well-being.

## How Does Commuting Impact Your Rural Workers and Farm?

If your workers are commuting daily, it's worth considering what that drive means for their performance and safety. Here are some key factors:

### 1. Travel Time

- Commutes over 45 minutes one way can leave workers tired before they even start their day.
- [Research suggests](#) that trips over 60 minutes negatively affect health, morale, and productivity.

### 2. Road and Traffic Conditions

- Country roads can be narrow, unsealed, or home to [wandering wildlife](#)—especially at dawn or dusk.
- Long travel distances combined with poor conditions increase the chance of accidents and vehicle breakdowns.

### 3. Worker Fatigue

A long commute added to a full day of farm work leaves workers exhausted. This fatigue can lead to slower productivity, mistakes, and even safety issues.

**Ask yourself:** Are my workers turning up refreshed and ready, or are they worn out from the drive?

## What Are the Costs of Commuting?

Commuting isn't just about time; it has real financial implications too.

### Fuel and Maintenance

- Workers—or maybe the owners—often bear the brunt of fuel costs and wear and tear on their vehicles.

### Lost Productivity

- Time spent driving is time not spent working—or resting. Over weeks and months, this adds up.

### Safety Concerns

- Longer commutes increase the risk of road accidents, particularly during peak farming seasons like harvest.

If you've noticed higher turnover rates or trouble retaining good rural workers, long drives might be part of the problem.

## Why Consider On-Farm Accommodation?

Providing on-farm accommodation could be the solution your farm needs. Let's weigh up the benefits:

### 1. Better Rest and Recovery

With workers living on-site, they can spend their evenings resting instead of driving. A good night's sleep leads to safer and more productive workdays.

### 2. Improved Worker Satisfaction

On-site housing makes life easier for your team. Less travel means more time with family, less stress, and happier workers who are more likely to stick around.

### 3. Attracting and Keeping Talent

The rural labour market is competitive. Providing quality housing gives you an edge when recruiting and helps keep your team around long-term.

**Remember:** It's not just about providing a bed; it's about offering comfort and connection. Quality modular housing—like the solutions from [Aruva Modular](#)—delivers rest and reliability, making workers feel valued.

## How to Decide What's Right for Your Farm

Here's a simple way to weigh up commuting versus on-farm accommodation.

### 1. Calculate Commute Costs

- Add up the costs of fuel, maintenance, and time lost due to driving.
- Consider worker turnover and the productivity lost when your team is tired.

### 2. Assess Accommodation Costs

- Building or leasing housing might seem like a big upfront expense, but it often pays for itself in productivity, retention, and even tax benefits.
- Modular housing can make the process quicker, easier, and more affordable.

### 3. Factor in Peak Seasons

During times like harvest, long hours and long drives are a dangerous combination. Accommodation can solve that problem, keeping your team safe and focused.

## How to Make a Decision

Create a table to compare commuting and on-site accommodation for your farm. Exactly how you rate it will be up to you—it needs to make sense based on your situation. Here's an example of what we mean.

Factor	Commute	Accommodation
Worker Safety	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Cost Over Time	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★
Productivity	★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Worker Retention	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Recruitment	★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★

Whichever option has the most stars for your needs wins.



1300 59 59 31

info@aruva.au

5 Sunny Bank Road, Lisarow NSW 2250

Futurebuild Group Pty Ltd. ABN: 98 150 296 558

## Getting Started with On-Farm Accommodation

If you're leaning towards on-farm accommodation, consider modular housing. It's cost-effective, quick to install, and designed for rural properties.

Companies like Aruva Modular specialise in practical designs that make life easy and pay back over time. Their process keeps it simple, so you're sorted from start to finish. Plus, their down-to-earth team understands what Australian farmers need.

## Conclusion

Deciding between commuting and on-farm accommodation is about more than just numbers. It's about the health and safety of your rural workers, the productivity of your farm, and your ability to build a team that's happy and motivated.

By evaluating the costs and benefits—and keeping worker well-being at the forefront—you can make the choice that delivers the best results for your farm.

After all, as the saying goes, it's all about A Good Night's Sleep.

**Want to explore modular housing options for your rural workers? Visit [Aruva Modular](#) today to find the right solution for your team.**

