



North Queensland Restocking, Replanting & On-farm Infrastructure Grants

North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January-14 February 2019
Guideline

1. About the scheme

The Australian Government is providing matched co-contribution grant funding to assist *primary production enterprises* impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough of 25 January - 14 February 2019, to assist in the cost of restocking lost livestock, replanting lost or damaged crops or permanent plantings, and restoring or replacing lost or damaged on-farm infrastructure.

This event was catastrophic, with estimated livestock losses of up to 500,000, and initial estimates of on-farm infrastructure damage of at least \$100 million.

The purpose of the grants is to assist in restoring eligible *primary production enterprises* to their productive state, with respect to these items, immediately before the *disaster event* occurred.

This scheme is funded to the amount of \$300 million by the Australian Government and is being delivered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

The restocking, replanting and on-farm infrastructure grants are in addition to assistance available to impacted *primary production enterprises* under the joint Australian and Queensland Government Disaster Funding Recovery Assistance schemes.

The scheme will remain open until 30 June 2021, or until available funding is fully distributed, whichever comes first.

2. Assistance available

2.1 Grants of up to **\$400,000** are available under the scheme for an eligible *primary production enterprise* for the purposes of:

- a) restocking lost livestock;
- b) replanting lost or damaged crops or permanent plantings; and
- c) restoring or replacing lost or damaged on-farm infrastructure.

2.2 Applicants must be able to demonstrate the availability of funds to match grant funding requested with an equal cash co-contribution. Cash co-contributions by applicants:

- a) must be used for eligible purposes; and
- b) can include, but may not be limited to:
 - i. funds on hand including in bank accounts, terms deposits, Farm Management Deposits or other investments;
 - ii. finance raised from private or commercial sources on normal commercial credit terms;
 - iii. finance raised from government concessional loan sources; and
 - iv. amounts already expended on restocking, replanting or on-farm infrastructure restoration in relation to direct damage caused by the *disaster event*; and
- c) cannot include funds from any government or non-government grant or charitable source.



3. How grants may be used

3.1 Grants under the scheme must be used to cover costs associated with the following items:

- a) replacing livestock that are assessed as being lost as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*;
- b) replanting crops (including pasture) and/or permanent plantings that are assessed as being lost or damaged as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:
 - i. removal of damaged crops, plants or trees;
 - ii. purchase of seed, seedlings or trees;
 - iii. fuel for planting equipment required for the planting crops or permanent plantings; and
 - iv. labour and/or contracting expenses required for planting.
- c) transport or freight costs associated with the replacement of livestock as per 3.1.a), or the replanting of crops or permanent plantings as per 3.1.b);
- d) replacing or repairing on-farm infrastructure that are assessed as lost or damaged as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:
 - i. plant and equipment;
 - ii. farm buildings except housing;
 - iii. yards;
 - iv. fences;
 - v. roads;
 - vi. dams and irrigation earthworks; and
 - vii. paddock and field restoration.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 To be eligible to receive a grant under the scheme applicants must:

- a) be a *primary producer* and have a *primary production enterprise* that is located in the *eligible area* and has suffered from:
 - i. loss of livestock; or
 - ii. loss or damage to crops; or
 - iii. loss or damage to permanent plantings; or
 - iv. loss or damage to on-farm infrastructureas a direct consequence of the *disaster event*; and
- b) be able to demonstrate and have verified the losses suffered as a result from the *disaster event*; and
- c) have been engaged in carrying on the *primary production enterprise* when affected by the *disaster event*.

4.2 In addition, applicants must:

- a) have been approved for a grant under the *Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme* for primary producers in relation to damage caused to the *primary production enterprise* within the *eligible area* by the *disaster event* while the scheme is available, prior to applying for the Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants; and
(Note: The eligible separate business criteria contained in the *Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme* does not apply to this grant scheme).
- b) demonstrate the availability of funds to match grant funding requested with an equal cash co-contribution (as per 2.2.b); and
- c) demonstrate the *primary production enterprise* will be *financially viable* and have the support of its commercial lenders after acquittal of both the grant amount provided and matched co-contribution funding, where relevant; and
- d) be solely responsible for incurring the costs claimed in the application.

4.3 An applicant may also be eligible for a grant if:

- a) the applicant's *primary production enterprise* is located outside of the *eligible area*, but is carried on at least sometimes on a regular basis in the area; and
- b) the *primary production enterprise* had:
 - i. loss of livestock; or
 - ii. loss or damage to crops; or
 - iii. loss or damage to permanent plantings; or
 - iv. loss or damage to on-farm infrastructuresituated in the *eligible area* and the losses or damage are assessed as occurring as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*.

4.4 Applicants will not be eligible for a grant, or part of a grant, if the applicant:

- a) does not meet the eligibility requirements set out at 4.1- 4.3; or
- b) has received, or has been approved to receive, financial assistance for costs associated with the items set out under 3.1 from another government assistance scheme, however this does not preclude eligibility for the payment of grant monies for items outside of those for which government assistance has been received, or for amounts in excess of the value of the government assistance received; or
- c) is entitled to receive a payment under an insurance policy for costs directly associated with an item set out at 3.1, however this does not preclude eligibility for the payment of grant monies for items outside of those insured, or for amounts in excess of the value insured.

5. How to apply

5.1 Complete the application form available on QRIDA's website at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au and submit to QRIDA by post, email or fax.

5.2 Clear evidence of livestock deaths, crop or permanent plantings damage or infrastructure damage must be provided to support requests for a grant. This must include quotes or invoices associated with costs for restocking, replanting or infrastructure repair or replacement. This evidence may also be supported with photographs.

5.3 Any quotes or invoices provided to support an application, or requests for payment of grant funds should reflect current market prices for the goods or services being purchased. QRIDA may request further quotations be provided to substantiate requests.

5.4 Goods or services being funded under the scheme should be purchased from properly accredited or qualified suppliers or contractors.

5.5 Suppliers or contractors of goods and services should not be employed by an entity owned or partially owned by the applicant.

5.6 Penalties may be applied under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (Qld) if any information provided in an application is found to be untrue, false or misleading. Applicants should also be aware that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

6. How applications will be assessed and decided

6.1 Upon receiving applications, QRIDA will acknowledge receipt by email or post and advise if any further information is required to commence assessment of the application.

6.2 QRIDA will assess applications in date received order and incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is received.

6.3 Complete applications will be allocated to a scheme assessor who will contact applicants to discuss their application and ensure QRIDA fully understands the funding request. QRIDA's assessor will also liaise with business advisors or financiers as necessary.

6.4 QRIDA will decide grant applications and make a grant offer in writing to approved applicants.

6.5 QRIDA may issue conditional approvals to applicants, for instance approvals subject to satisfactory finance towards a co-contribution being arranged.

7. Funding arrangements

7.1 Approved applicants will be required to undertake an assessment of loss by QRIDA to determine an initial overall amount of monies that may be granted under each program.

- a) Where an initial assessment is undertaken using incomplete or unverified information, QRIDA may request additional information in accordance with the program's compliance plan.

7.2 Approved applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with QRIDA.

7.3 To draw on approved grants, grant recipients may either:

- a) submit official invoices and QRIDA will pay 50 percent of the invoice amount to suppliers; or
- b) submit fully paid official invoices and official receipts and QRIDA will reimburse 50 percent of the receipt amount to the grant recipient.

7.4 Grant recipients are able to make multiple requests to draw against the approved amount of monies (as assessed at 7.1) until such time as the cumulative grant funding totals the grant amount approved.

7.5 Funding received under the *Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme* must be fully acquitted before any grant funding under the scheme can be distributed.

8. Terms and conditions

8.1 Successful applicants will be required to:

- a) provide any additional information required by QRIDA to assess an application, including assessment of losses arising from the *disaster event*; and
- b) agree to subsequent audits under the scheme including permission for on-farm access to confirm that grant and co-contribution funding provided have been expended on approved purposes.

8.2 A joint Commonwealth – Queensland officials level Steering Committee may review and vary these guidelines as required. Any revised guidelines will be published on QRIDA's website at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au.

9. Definitions

Disaster event means the disaster event described by the Queensland Government as the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough 25 January - 14 February 2019.

Eligible area means the areas covered by the Queensland local government authorities of Burdekin Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, Townsville City Council, and Winton Shire Council.

Financial viability means a farm business is considered financially viable when the business is assessed as being able to generate sufficient net profit under normal seasonal and market conditions after fixed and variable expenses to:

- service borrowings at commercial interest rates;
- provide an adequate standard of living for relevant members of the farm business;
- allow investment on-farm to maintain the farm's productive assets;
- provide funds for investment that increases long-term productivity.

Official invoice means an invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant.

Official receipt means a receipt including the name and address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the receipt and a description of each item to which the receipt relates.

Special Disaster Recovery Grants Scheme means the scheme described in Schedule 23 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* (Qld).

Primary producer means:

- a) a sole trader who spends the majority of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from a *primary production enterprise*; or
- b) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust who spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the *primary production enterprise*; or
- c) a sole trader who is able to demonstrate that they have the potential to spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the *primary production enterprise*; or
- d) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust are able to demonstrate that they have the potential to spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the *primary production enterprise*.

Primary production enterprise means a business that:

- a) is established under the legal structure of a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company;
- b) is carried on by a *primary producer* and trades in a primary production industry, including the agricultural, horticultural, grazing, pastoral, apicultural or aqua-cultural industries;
- c) undertakes all primary production aspects of the business wholly in Australia;
- d) is registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN) and is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- e) is not under external administration or bankruptcy;
- f) is not a public company under the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).