

+ Prime focus

Helping Queenslanders recover from natural disasters

Before summer officially began, La Niña made itself known. On 10 November 2021, a flooding and rainfall event began across Central, Southern and Western Queensland which saw major flooding and hundreds of people evacuated across 10 regional council areas, lasting until 3 December 2021.

To help the recovery, QRIDA is administering financial assistance to directly affected primary producers and small businesses in those regions. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for primary producers, and \$25,000 for small businesses, to help with clean-up costs. Eligible primary producers and small businesses can also access Disaster Assistance Loans of up to \$250,000 and Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans of up to \$100,000.

After some reprieve over the Christmas break, next to make impact on Queensland was Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth from 7 to 10 January 2022. Primary producers in the Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett and South Burnett Regional Council areas saw intense rainfall and major flooding across the region.

QRIDA's Regional Area Manager for the Burnett, Cynthia Godden, says the event wasn't just devastating, but widespread. "For many producers, this disaster will take months to clean-up and rebuild. Many lost key infrastructure including dams, fences, pumps and irrigation equipment, as well as livestock and significant gully and field erosion and washed out roads. It's good to see these producers and small businesses applying for the assistance available," Cynthia said.

"Thankfully, many eligible enterprises are already beginning their recovery process having funding already approved by QRIDA."

"Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations with an initial \$10,000 to help provide an immediate cash injection and assist producers to plan their recovery activities and once repairs are completed they can apply for the further grant amount up to the balance of \$40,000 by providing evidence of payment of the works completed."

"...many eligible enterprises are already beginning their recovery process having funding already approved by QRIDA."

Affected primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations can also access Disaster Assistance Loans and Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans.

In the week following this disaster, QRIDA had boots on the ground, meeting with primary producers about how the financial assistance could help their recovery. QRIDA's Chief Engagement Officer, Brendan Egan, alongside QRIDA's Regional Area Managers, have attended community events across the Wide Bay Burnett region.

"QRIDA hosted pop-up offices at each of the community events held in Tiara, Goomeri and Biggenden where some of the most significant damage for primary producers had occurred.



QRIDA's Regional Area Manager for the Burnett, Cynthia Godden, discussing disaster assistance available at a community event at Goomeri.

"QRIDA also met with a number of flood impacted businesses in Maryborough together with local Council and State Government agencies. While it was good to see a number of businesses had been able to clean-up and reopen their businesses, we know for others it will be a longer road to recovery and that's where disaster recovery funding can assist businesses and enterprises in both the short and long term," he said.

Visit QRIDA's website and social media pages to stay up to date with the latest disaster recovery assistance available.

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To update your details email contact_us@qrída.qld.gov.au or call 1800 623 946.

+ QRIDA news

It has been a busy start to 2022 with Queensland seeing a great outlook for the agriculture industry. Cattle prices are high, interest rates are low, and many parts of Queensland have received the rainfall they need to see them through to winter.

With such great conditions, it is a timely opportunity for families to start thinking about investing in succession, expanding their current enterprise, or improving the productivity and sustainability of their property.

In saying that, not all parts of Queensland have had such a great start to 2022 with our first disaster event, Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth impacting the Wide Bay Burnett region.

QRIDA has been working alongside some of our allies, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), local councils and industry groups to understand the losses and quickly get primary producers, small businesses, and non-profit organisations back on their feet.

For those in parts of Queensland who have received little to no rainfall, the Queensland Government recently announced the launch of two new drought grants which QRIDA is administering.

The Farm Management Grants are designed to assist primary producers in developing a Farm Business Resilience Plan and the Drought Preparedness Grants to invest in the necessary infrastructure that will help better manage the impacts of drought on their primary production enterprise.

Lastly, COVID-19 continues to disrupt the agriculture supply chain and the way we engage and do business, but Queensland's agriculture industry is resilient, and I believe they will continue to find innovative ways to adapt to the changing environment.

I wish everyone a successful and safe 2022.

Cameron MacMillan
QRIDA Chief Executive Officer







QRIDA CEO Cameron MacMillan

Get social with QRIDA!



Follow QRIDA on social media to connect with us and learn more about our programs and services.

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Kick start your new year farming resolutions

Have you got new years resolutions for your farm business? QRIDA's First Start and Sustainability Loans could help you achieve your plans!

A First Start Loan offers up to \$2 million to Queensland primary producers to help them buy their first block of land, build up herd numbers or assist in carrying out their succession plan by allowing the next generation to buy into the family farming business.

A Sustainability Loan offers up to \$1.3 million to help primary producers improve the productivity and profitability of their primary production enterprise. This loan can be used to improve on-farm water, energy or fencing infrastructure, upgrade or purchase new equipment, diversify operations, or mitigate the impacts of drought.

For more information on these loans contact your local Regional Area Manager on **1800 623 946** or visit qrida.qld.gov.au.

How to find your Regional Area Manager

QRIDA has boots on the ground across Queensland ready to meet with primary producers on farm to provide information about the assistance available.

Get in touch with your local Regional Area Manager in three easy steps:

1. Visit the 'Your Region' page on QRIDA's website
2. Enter your postcode and click the Q button
3. Contact your Regional Area Manager via phone or email.

2019 NQ Monsoon Trough grants closing 30 June 2022

The \$400,000 North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants are still available for primary producers impacted by the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January - 14 February 2019.

The co-contribution grants can be used to recover costs from replacing lost livestock, replanting lost crops and rebuilding damaged or lost infrastructure.

Richmond graziers, Corbett (pictured) and Beris Tritton used the grant funding to help replace livestock they lost as a result of the 2019 event.

QRIDA administers North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure co-contribution grants on behalf of the Australian Government.

“There’s a sentiment in the bush people don’t want to apply for assistance, but not every day do you get an event like this either,” he said.

“If you sit on your hands it doesn’t happen. I understand if people didn’t act because it was such a big, shocking thing but we jumped in.”

“Once I knew what I was doing, I was set. I had conversations with the QRIDA team in Toowoomba and I was into it. They were really helpful, it took a phone call, I sent my spreadsheet out and off we went,” he said.

“How others choose to take it up, is up to them. I would certainly encourage them to look at it, because it does help.”

Talk to your local Regional Area Manager to find out about eligibility criteria or how to apply. Applications close 30 June 2022.



Drought grants available for producers

Grants are now available to help primary producers better manage future droughts through a range of assistance measures. Queensland producers from all industries may be eligible for these grants to help them improve the infrastructure of their property and mitigate the impacts of drought.

Farm Management Grants offer primary producers a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of eligible professional advice up to a maximum \$2,500 to produce a Farm Business Resilience Plan for their property.

These plans are intended to assist producers identify risks associated with production, including climate and weather (such as drought), as well as biosecurity and natural resource management and business risks including financial and market factors.

Drought Preparedness Grants offer up to \$50,000 as a co-contribution grant to assist primary producers undertake on-farm capital improvements that will improve the drought preparedness of their property. A QRIDA Sustainability Loan may be used as the co-contribution to the Drought Preparedness Grant.

These grants are the first of more drought support to be made available as part of the drought assistance package. QRIDA will also be administering concessional and interest-free drought loans in early 2022.

To learn more about these grants including guidelines and application forms, contact your local Regional Area Manager on **1800 623 946** or visit our Drought Support web page.

This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government.

What can be purchased with a Drought Preparedness Grant?

- ✓ Pipes, water tanks and water troughs
- ✓ Dam construction and/or expansion
- ✓ Drilling a new working bore
- ✓ Water conservation infrastructure and equipment including more efficient irrigation
- ✓ Water pumps and power supply used to run water pumps
- ✓ Storage, mixing and feeding out equipment for grain, fodder, molasses and other supplements
- ✓ Grain storage and equipment that improves the business’ ability to manage drought
- ✓ Reasonable freight components to purchase and install equipment or infrastructure
- ✓ Consumables including fuel for own machinery used in relation to the drought preparedness project
- ✓ Contractor costs to install infrastructure



2022 Rainfall Chart

A new year means a new rainfall chart! Keep track of your 2022 rainfall records with our QRIDA Rainfall Chart. Print one out and stick it on your fridge or save it to your desktop and fill it out.

Visit our Rainfall Chart web page to download your copy today.

+ Regional update

Our team in regional QLD, helping yours...

QRIDA has a network of 11 Regional Area Managers (RAMs) based throughout Queensland who can provide you with the latest local knowledge and expertise on our programs and services.

With offices based in Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cloncurry, Emerald (with an office in Longreach), Innisfail, Kingaroy, Mackay, Rockhampton, Roma, Toowoomba and Townsville, we've got Queensland covered.

In each newsletter we feature an update from three of our RAMs. To find details of your local RAM, contact us on **1800 623 946** or visit the 'your region' page on our website where you can search by region or postcode.



Kate Dunk
Darling Downs

Recent storms and flooding in late 2021 and early 2022 have caused headaches for local producers across the Darling Downs. I remind producers in the Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Western Downs Regional Council areas that they may be eligible for Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants and Disaster Assistance Loans to help them recover and get back on their feet.

While we've seen the wettest start of a new year for some time, many producers' minds are still focussed on the region's long-term drought. Sustainability Loans are a great low interest finance option for producers across the Darling Downs to fund drought proofing measures along with the new drought assistance programs we have on offer.

Aside from a busy start to the disaster season, I'm meeting with many clients to discuss how QRIDA can help with family succession planning through First Start Loans. I'm always available to meet with clients on-farm so give me a call and we'll chat about how QRIDA can help you.

Talk with Kate

☎ 0427 690 448

✉ kate.dunk@qrida.qld.gov.au



Mark Barrett
Wide Bay & Fraser Coast

It's been a wet start to 2022 for my region with Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth crossing the coast in early January, dropping a significant amount of rainfall to cause flooding. While the rain was welcome for some, the damage from flooding was not. I encourage producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations impacted by the flooding to consider accessing a disaster recovery grant or loan from QRIDA to assist with your recovery costs.

Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants up to \$50,000, Disaster Assistance Loans up to \$250,000 and Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans up to \$100,000 are available. You can find guidelines and applications for this assistance on our website.

As always, I can meet with you to discuss your individual situation to see how we can help you. Don't self-assess, I can answer your questions about eligibility and walk you through the application process. Give me a call on 1800 623 946 and let's see how we can help you.

Talk with Mark

☎ 0417 775 547

✉ mark.barrett@qrida.qld.gov.au



Elizabeth Ahern
North Queensland

As usual for this time of year, my region has received a lot of rain in recent months and, with cane crushing now finished, producers have had more time to think about future plans for their property. As a result, I've received many calls from producers about how they could use a First Start or Sustainability Loan to put their plans into action.

First Start Loans provide producers wanting to make a start in agriculture with low interest finance to purchase their first farming enterprise or carry out the family succession plan.

Sustainability Loans give producers options to save on energy costs through investment in irrigation improvements and renewable energy systems.

I've also attended a number of events lately, allowing me to catch up with producers. I'll be at the NQ Field Days in Townsville from 7-8 April so if you're planning on attending and want to find out more about how QRIDA can assist you, come and see me there.

Talk with Elizabeth

☎ 0408 180 644

✉ elizabeth.ahern@qrida.qld.gov.au

Disclaimer: the information provided by QRIDA is general information only and has been prepared without taking into account your individual objectives, financial situation and needs. Before applying for financial assistance or making any decision, you should obtain and read a copy of the relevant program guidelines and seek advice from your legal, business and financial advisers to determine your eligibility for, and the terms of the relevant financial assistance. You should note that past grants of financial assistance are not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future grants of financial assistance. The information provided by QRIDA has been taken from sources believed to be reliable however QRIDA does not represent that the information is accurate or complete and it should not be relied upon as such. QRIDA does not assume any common law duty of care towards you in providing the information and QRIDA will not be liable for any loss or damage however caused (including by the negligence of QRIDA), suffered or incurred by you in connection with information provided by QRIDA.