

Chief Executive Officer's report

Standing by their side, QRIDA is dedicated to helping primary producers, businesses and non-profit organisations grow in the good times and persevere through the challenging times.

Queenslanders have experienced a whirlwind of public health, economic and climatic conditions over the past financial year. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt day to day life alongside an extreme disaster season with five major rainfall and flooding events activated under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) since December 2021.

Our commitment to supporting our fellow Queenslanders runs deep at QRIDA. We seek to learn from our experiences and invest in our people, processes and systems to ensure an improved, effective and agile model for delivering government financial assistance programs and services.

In 2021-2022 we approved more than 53,400 applications worth over \$657 million. This is the biggest transactional year for QRIDA in its 28-year history, demonstrating our passion and capacity to assist rural industry and businesses across the state.

From helping a young couple in the Gulf of Queensland build their own beef herd, to funding an innovative project to enable a South East Queensland horticulture producer expand their product line, to supporting a jewellery business in Bundaberg through COVID-19 lockdowns, we are proud to have a passionate team delivering these programs and services to Queensland.

Continued COVID-19 response

QRIDA has played an important role in delivering COVID-19 financial support as part of the Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy. In 2021-2022 we delivered nine programs providing relief to businesses across the state from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The largest of those programs was the COVID-19 Business Support Grant program, with QRIDA working alongside the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) to roll out this much-needed financial support. The program delivered over \$321 million to more than 31,600 impacted businesses across the state to provide financial relief through several COVID-19 lockdowns.

Drought and flooding rains

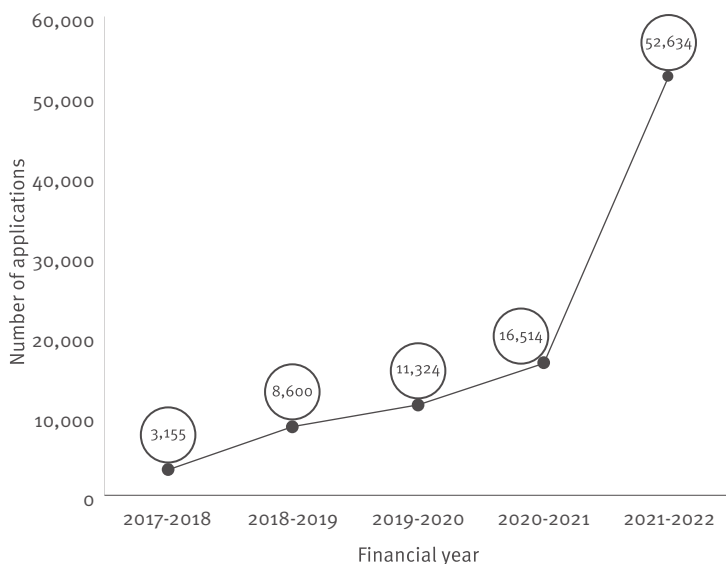
Drought was prevalent in many parts of Queensland for the first half of the financial year, followed by floods inundating many regions over the second half.

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, QRIDA launched five new Queensland Government Drought Assistance Programs that were developed to help primary producers prepare, manage, recover and mitigate the impacts of drought.

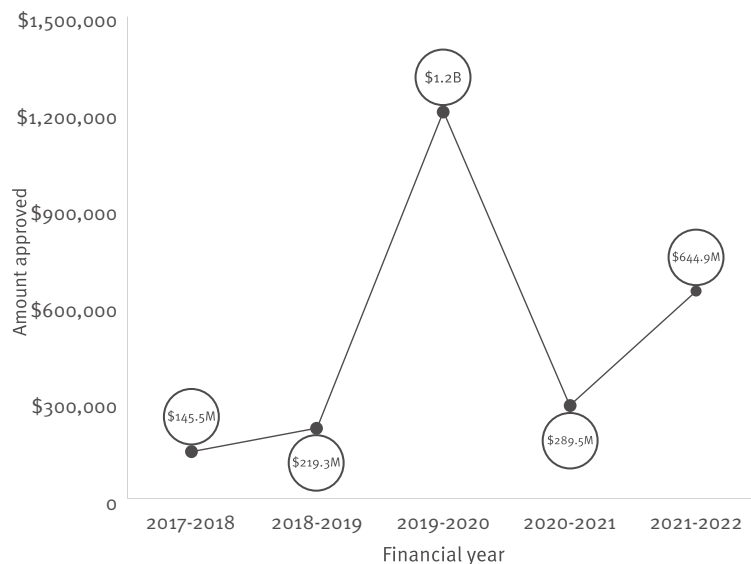
The programs under the new drought package include a Farm Management Grant rebate on eligible professional advice to develop a Farm Business Resilience Plan, Drought Preparedness Grants up to \$50,000 to undertake on-farm capital improvements that will improve the drought preparedness of their property and three new concessional drought loans of up to \$250,000.

QRIDA highlights

Five year snapshot - # applications approved



Five year snapshot - \$ amount approved



On the other end of the spectrum, we saw one of the biggest disaster seasons in many years. In 2021-2022 QRIDA administered over \$69 million in disaster recovery grants and \$4 million in disaster recovery loans to help get these businesses and communities back on their feet as soon as possible.

Through these challenging times, it is admirable to see the strength of those affected rebuild and recover what they have lost. It is truly rewarding for us to play a small part in their recovery process by administering disaster recovery assistance in the form of grants and loans.

Our team in regional Queensland, helping yours

Our Regional Area Managers, the face of QRIDA, continue to work hard to ensure personalised local service at our 11 locations across Queensland. Meeting with producers on-farm or over the phone, they have helped them understand the financial assistance available and walked them through the application process.

Our Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) approved over \$95 million in First Start and Sustainability Loans to producers across Queensland. These concessional loans have been vital in helping the next generation onto the land and for helping existing producers improve the sustainability of their farming enterprise.

We have also continued supporting producers with our Farm Business Debt Mediation and Farm Debt Restructure Office programs. An example of this is beef and pork producers from near Gayndah who, after experiencing astronomical grain prices through drought and a market disruption in pork prices, were not sure how they were going to take over the family farm.

Our Farm Business Analysis Assistance, which is administered by our Farm Debt Restructure Office, was able to connect these clients with free, independent advice from a consultant to help them move forward with confidence in their rural enterprise.

It is successes like this that make us a proud organisation.

More to come

We at QRIDA are passionate about fostering productive and sustainable regions and rural communities. We are proud of the story we have told over the past 28 years and look forward to continuing to respond to new challenges and opportunities in the years to come.

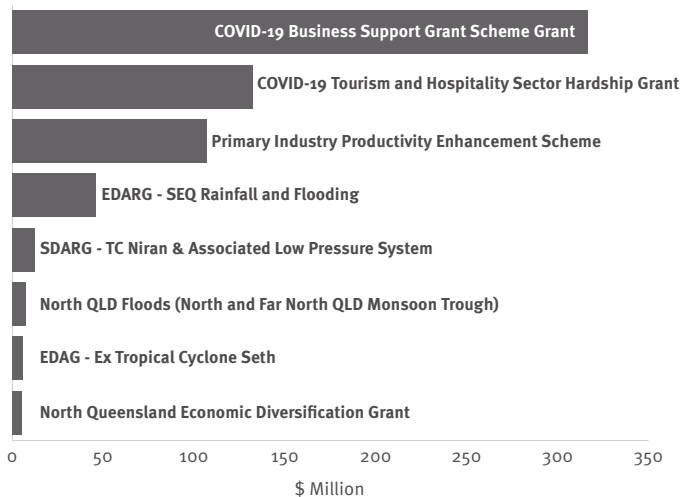
I would like to thank our employees located across the state, our program owners and allies, the Board of Directors, and the Honourable Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, for their ongoing support during another challenging and successful year.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to help shape and strengthen Queensland’s rural and industry sectors and delivering new financial programs and services that support and provide value to Queenslanders.



Cameron MacMillan
Chief Executive Officer

Highest approved amounts by scheme



Note: This graph displays only the top eight schemes' approvals by dollar amount. The schemes not shown in this graph make up the remainder of the total approved by QRIDA in 2021-2022.

Count of new schemes by program owner

