

+ Prime focus

Lockyer Valley hay producer, Steve Neuendorf, used a Drought Preparedness Grant from QRIDA to purchase a boom irrigator and put down a bore to secure water supply for the future.

Water secured for future with Drought Preparedness Grant

After producing hay and chaff for almost 40 years in the Lockyer Valley, Steve Neuendorf knows the importance of securing water for his enterprise now and for the future.

So when he found out QRIDA was administering drought support grants and loans to help prepare producers for future droughts, he applied straight away.

"I used the Drought Preparedness Grant for purchasing a boom irrigator and also putting down another bore so if there were any droughts, I'd have plenty of water," he said.

Not only has investing in water infrastructure mitigated the impacts of future droughts for Steve, but it's also helped him improve his hay and chaff business.

"The boom irrigator is very efficient because it is low pressure, so you don't need as high electricity to make it run and it is also water efficient because it's spread out and it doesn't go up high and get blown away by the wind," he said.

"Nothing will grow without water, with the new bore and boom irrigator, it has made my business more efficient and productive."

Steve encourages other producers to act now and use the funding available through QRIDA to set their property up for the future.

"Nothing will grow without water, with the new bore and boom irrigator, it has made my business more efficient and productive.

"Apply for the grants, it's a necessity. The dry times will come and go but they will always be back," he said.

For more information about Drought Preparedness Grants as well as other drought loan and grant programs administered by QRIDA, visit qrda.qld.gov.au or contact QRIDA on 1800 623 946. Eligibility criteria applies.

QRIDA is administering the Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Watch Steve's story

Scan the QR code to watch Steve's video story and find out more about how he used a Drought Preparedness Grant to secure water on his property.



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

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James and Carla Pidgeon from Arolla Pastoral Company are using a RAD Grant to help fund the build of a new sheep reproductive facility.

RAD Grant helps Southern Downs producers build sheep reproductive facility

Works are underway on a sheep reproductive facility in the Southern Downs designed to fast-track Queensland's supply of genetically superior lambs while creating four direct jobs and 11 indirect jobs for Queenslanders as a result of the project.

Arolla Pastoral Company, a fifth-generation family farm business located in Allora and run by James and Carla Pidgeon, is behind the project which aims to improve sheep fertility and the productivity of offspring.

"Instead of it taking us 10 years to get rid of sheep defects by natural birth, it will only take us a couple years through the use of artificial intelligence employed by the sheep reproductive facility," James said.

"The project diversifies our enterprise even more which is so important because we know weather and prices can change really quickly."

"It feels great to be able to create local jobs in our Southern Downs community and help grow the sheep industry as more producers realise the profitability of mixed farming in changing climates."

The \$560,000 project is being funded by a \$200,000 Rural Agricultural Development (RAD) Grant from the Palaszczuk Government, and a \$360,000 co-contribution from Arolla Pastoral Company.

The company is one of 10 sheep and goat enterprises across rural and regional Queensland which collectively received just over \$1.8 million in funding under Round One of the RAD Grant program.

For more information on the grants visit QRIDA's website.

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) administers the Rural Agricultural Development (sheep and goats) Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

QRIDA on the ground following Northern & Central QLD flooding

Representatives from QRIDA have been on the ground in affected areas to provide information and assistance about the disaster support available following the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon Flooding event which impacted the North, Central and Gulf regions of Queensland from December 2022 to April 2023.

In April QRIDA Chief Executive Officer, Cameron MacMillan, and Regional Area Manager for the North West and Gulf, Bill Fletcher, spent time in Burketown where they met with Burke Shire council Mayor, Ernie Camp, made on-farm visits to producers and held a pop-up office for small businesses.

To help the recovery, QRIDA is administering financial assistance to directly affected primary producers, small businesses and non profit organisations in the Burke, Boulia, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, and Mornington Shire Councils, the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and Mount Isa City Council.

What assistance is available?

Assistance available for this event includes Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers, and \$50,000 for small businesses and non profit organisations, to help with clean-up costs.

Eligible producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations can also access Disaster Assistance Loans of up to \$250,000 and Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans of up to \$100,000.

Further information, including details on how to apply and scheme guidelines, is available on QRIDA's website or by calling 1800 623 946.

QRIDA administers financial assistance to disaster affected primary producers, businesses and non-profit organisations under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Burke Shire Council Mayor, Ernie Camp, with QRIDA Chief Executive Officer, Cameron MacMillan.



Disaster recovery

Stay up to date about the disaster assistance currently available from QRIDA and the relevant application closing dates by selecting the disaster recovery link on QRIDA's website.

Sustainable fisher boosts business with new vessel and modern upgrades

Chris Bolton Fishing is feeding the growing appetite for their premium quality coral trout and bait with the purchase of bigger and better equipment funded by a Sustainability Loan from the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

“Our new boat is built for speed, and it allows us to get the fish and return home fast, so the produce is as fresh as possible,” Chris said.

“Having another two tender vessels means we can supply twice as much fish as we were previously which is such a game-changer.”

The upgrades were not only a win for the commercial fishing business, but also for the local economy.

“We’ve employed four extra fishermen, and we’ve tried to get them to do things the way we like them done and teach them about sustainability,” he said.

Chris said the process of applying for a Sustainability Loan from QRIDA was quick and easy and QRIDA’s Far North Regional Area Manager Sam Spina answered all his questions with local knowledge and agribusiness expertise.

“Having another two tender vessels means we can supply twice as much fish as we were previously which is such a game-changer.”

“Sam knows how primary industries work, he knows everyone’s business is different, and he carefully looks at what our business does and how we do it,” he said.

QRIDA Far North Regional Area Manager Sam Spina (pictured above right with Chris and his wife Kim) said Chris Bolton Fishing was a great example of an economically and environmentally sustainable wild-catch fishing business.



“We were happy to provide the Sustainability Loan to this business because the upgrades allowed them to increase productivity, while introducing new technology, particularly with the electronic anchors,” he said.

QRIDA’s Sustainability Loans of up to \$1.3 million can help primary production and wild-catch fishing businesses improve their productivity and long-term profitability.



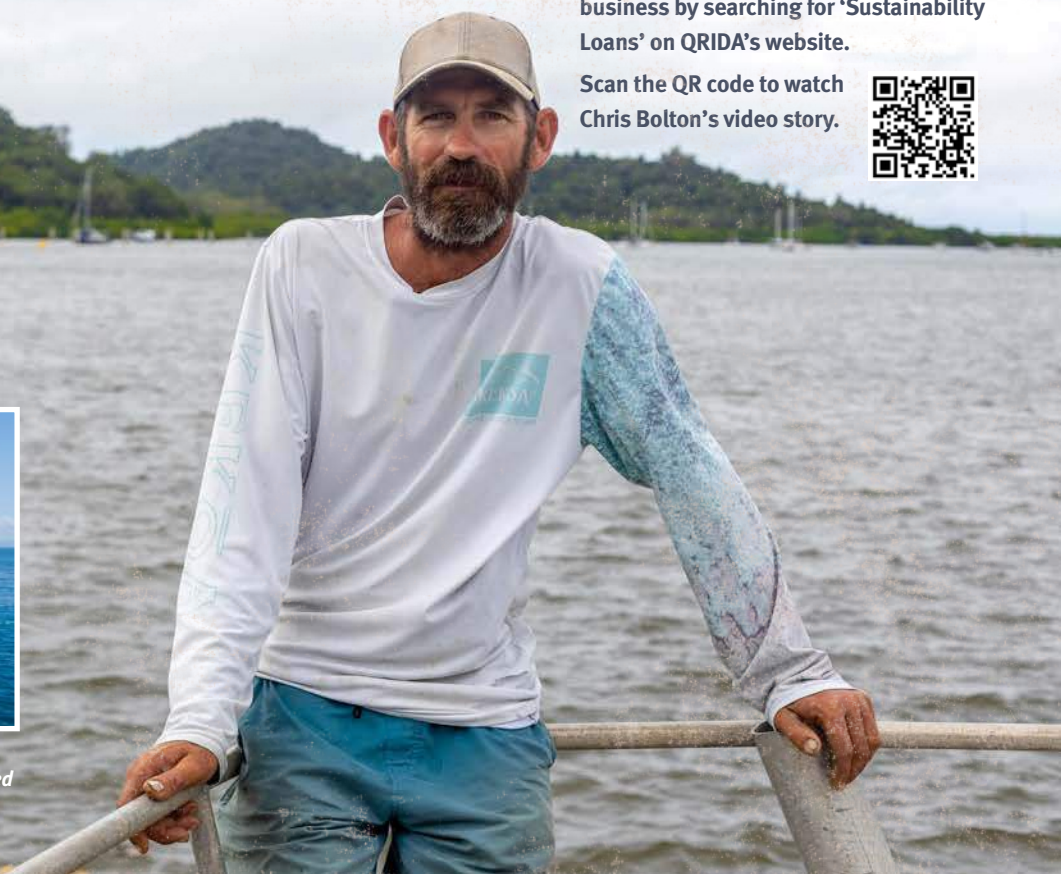
Sustainability Loans

Find out how a Sustainability Loan could help develop your primary production business by searching for ‘Sustainability Loans’ on QRIDA’s website.

Scan the QR code to watch Chris Bolton’s video story.



Chris Bolton used a Sustainability Loan from QRIDA to help purchase his new vessel (pictured in inset) as well as additional tender vessels.



+ Regional update

Our team in regional Queensland, 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.



Brian Coe
South East & Lockyer Valley

QRIDA's Sustainability Loans have long been helping Queenslanders create a viable future for their primary production businesses, and the financial assistance continues to evolve to create new opportunities for the agricultural industry. In addition to primary production upgrades, diversifications and expansions including biosecurity measures and infrastructure purchases, producers can now use a Sustainability Loan to construct small-scale rural worker accommodation on-farm. With many labor-intensive farms in my region, coupled with the current high demand for workers, rural worker accommodation could be particularly beneficial for local primary producers to attract workers to the region. In coming weeks I'll be attending some exciting events in the South East, especially the Somerset region, so keep an eye on your emails and QRIDA's social media for details. It would be great to see you at these events to chat about how QRIDA could help you achieve your farm business goals. If you can't make the events, give me a call and we can arrange to meet on-farm at a time that suits you.

Talk with Brian

☎ 0427 763 787

✉ brian.coe@qrida.qld.gov.au



Terry Pulsford
Maranoa & South West

Currently the goat industry in South West Queensland is being impacted by several factors including lower demand internationally, resulting in reduced livestock prices and labour shortages affecting processing capacities.

These issues are not only straining producers' cashflow but also carrying capacities through the unintended retention of livestock.

If you're experiencing problems with the management of your business QRIDA may be able to provide options through the Farm Debt Restructure Office. This program is at arm's length to your existing financier and may provide proactive solutions to moving forward.

I encourage producers to keep future seasons in mind and explore how QRIDA's drought support could help them prepare and mitigate future impacts of drought on their enterprise.

Please get in touch with me if you want to find out more about any of QRIDA's programs.

Talk with Terry

☎ 0427 029 141

✉ terry.pulsford@qrida.qld.gov.au



Glenn Henricksen
North

I'm excited to have started in April as the Regional Area Manager for the North Queensland region whilst Elizabeth Bajcetic is on maternity leave.

I come to QRIDA with more than 20 years experience in banking, finance and agribusiness, mainly in the Bundaberg region. During this time I have held managerial positions with a number of different banks and have developed an extensive knowledge of the sugar, cattle, small crop and other horticulture industries.

I'm really looking forward to getting out and about in my region to meet with producers on farm and discuss the QRIDA assistance that is available to help them achieve their agribusiness goals.

If you're looking into plans to start your first primary production business, develop and upgrade your existing business or to prepare, manage, recover or mitigate the impacts of drought please give me a call – I'd love to help you find the right QRIDA assistance available for your situation.

Talk with Glenn

☎ 0408 180 644

✉ glenn.henricksen@qrida.qld.gov.au

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