



# Guideline Interpretation Guide

**Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for primary production businesses affected by eligible disaster events from 29 January 2025 onwards.**

This guide aims to assist applicants in understanding the Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant Guidelines. It is important to note that this document is not a substitute for the Guidelines.

QRIDA strongly recommends reading the Scheme Guidelines, which can be found on QRIDA's website, to confirm eligibility requirements and activities.

Please refer to the 'Application tips for primary production businesses' for examples of the correct documents to provide with your Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant application.

**Q** Why do I need quotes and invoices for the recovery and reinstatement activities I'd like to claim under the grant?

**A** To demonstrate the damage sustained as a result of the disaster event and what is required to undertake reinstatement.



## Tip: Have your supplier include specific details in their quotes and invoices

To help determine the recovery activities being claimed, your quotes and invoices should include the supplier's name, address and ABN details, the date of the transaction, the purchase has been paid for in full and the details specific to the reinstatement activities.

**Q** What is the difference between direct and indirect damage?

**A** **Direct damage** is physical damage that occurred as a result of the disaster event. For example, immediate damage caused by flood water flowing through your property, or damage to a fence because of a bushfire on your property.

**Indirect damage** is the losses sustained as a consequence of the disaster. For example, downturn in customer foot traffic from road closures, loss of income or spoilage due to power outages.



## Tip: Include photographs of the damage with your application

You will need to include 5 - 10 photographs showing direct damage to the affected property with your application. Examples of photographs that can be included in your application include erosion of roads, driveways, culverts, drains and crossings, lost or damaged crops, dead livestock, inundation of paddocks and sheds and damaged tools, machinery or infrastructure.



**Q What is the meaning of ‘arm’s length’?**

**A** A contract is at ‘arm’s length’ when it is made by two parties acting freely and independently of each other, and without offering favour as a result of a special relationship (e.g. being related). The term of the contract should be commercially reasonable and the contract price should not be deflated or inflated compared to the fair market price.



**Tip: Ensure your quote from a related party is at a fair market price**

Where parties are related to each other, the applicant may be required to show that the transaction is at a fair market price. This can be done by obtaining a professional opinion from a third party (e.g. another builder), on the value of the construction work.

**Q Why do I need to engage a tradesperson to conduct a safety inspection of the damage?**

**A** You need to engage a tradesperson to inspect the direct damage sustained as a result of the disaster so that they can provide a report identifying the repair or replacement work required. This report will provide further evidence to support for application for disaster recovery assistance.



**Tip: Ask the tradesperson to include specific details in their report**

If a report is generated by a tradesperson, ensure it includes the time and date of the inspection, details of the damage that occurred and images of the damage.

**Q Can I hire or lease equipment or materials to clean up my property?**

**A** If you have suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster event, you can use the grant to reimburse the costs of hiring or leasing equipment and materials to assist with clean-up activities including:

- fuel and oil to run machinery/equipment
- hiring machinery/equipment to assist with clean-up activities (e.g. bobcat, loader, pressure washer etc).

Damages incurred while using the machinery/equipment, including wear and tear and modifications to machinery are not covered by the grant.



**Tip: Log fuel purchases that you’d like to claim under the grant**

Use the fuel calculator spreadsheet that is supplied with the application form to log the fuel purchases you intend on claiming under the grant.

**Q Can I purchase equipment or materials to clean my property?**

**A** If you have suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster event, you can use the grant to purchase small items of equipment and materials to assist with clean-up activities in line with QRIDA's satisfaction.



**Tip: The equipment must not be ordinarily available for hire or lease**

The equipment or materials being purchased must not be ordinarily available for hire or lease (e.g. cleaning chemicals, gloves, masks, brooms, mops, shovels or buckets etc).

**Q Can I employ personnel to help clean up damage sustained to my property, premises or equipment as a result of the disaster?**

**A** Yes, if you need additional assistance to help with the clean-up and recovery you may use the grant to employ personnel to help. Existing employees that are paid on an hourly rate, can be included if their day-to-day job has reduced or stopped as a result of the disaster.



**Tip: Use wage sheets/job cards to track the costs of contracting staff for clean-up and recovery activities**

Wage sheets and job cards should show details of clean-up and reinstatement activities. Enterprise Bookkeeping Wage Summaries and over-year-to-date (YTD) summaries are useful to represent the additional wages incurred.

If engaging staff as a contractor, quotes and invoices for their work should demonstrate the clean-up and reinstatement activities they undertook.

**Q What type of activities can I claim for removing and disposing of debris or damaged goods and materials?**

**A** When removing and disposing of debris or damaged goods and materials, the grant can be used to claim labour costs, hire fees, contracting costs and dump fees.



**Tip: Include details of the debris, damaged goods and materials being removed**

When claiming costs to remove debris, damaged goods and materials being used it is important that quotes and invoices include as much detail as possible on what is being removed. Including photos of the direct damage will also help determine the extent of the damage.

**Q Can I use the grant for building repairs or replacements?**

**A** If you have sustained direct damage to a building you may use the grant to repair or replace the building to a similar standard.

A 'like for like' replacement means the new building should be similar in design, function and maintenance. It doesn't need to be the same brand, but it should fit in the same space and not require changes to existing installations. The applicant should not additionally benefit from replacing the building by adding new modifications to the replacement.



**Tip: Include photo evidence of the damage sustained to the building**

Providing photo evidence of the building before the disaster event will help demonstrate the damage that has occurred.

**Q Can I replace equipment essential for the immediate resumption of my operations?**

**A** If you have sustained direct damage to equipment you may use the grant to purchase a 'like for like' replacement to assist with the immediate resumption of your operations.

A 'like for like' replacement means the new equipment being purchased should be similar in design, function, use and maintenance of the item being replaced. The new equipment does not necessarily have to be of the same brand, but it should not require any additional alterations or modifications of existing finishes or fixtures to install and should occupy the same or similar space to the replaced equipment or materials.



**Tip: Include details of the equipment being purchased and equipment that was damaged**

Photo evidence of the equipment's manufacturing plates (including date of manufacture, make and model number) supports a 'like for like' purchase of new equipment.

Replacing damaged equipment requires a tradesperson report that demonstrates the damage sustained to the equipment is beyond repair. The report must include details of the damage that occurred, the date and time of the inspection, the reason for non-repair, make and the manufacturer's details.

**Q Can I use the grant to recover the costs of replacing or repairing a damaged fence?**

**A** Yes, you may use the grant to replace or repair damaged fences to a 'like for like' standard.

A 'like for like' standard means when you are replacing or repairing a fence, you should aim to use materials and designs that are similar to the original fence. The new fence should serve the same purpose and function without needing major changes to install it and should fit in the same space as the old fence.



**Tip: Include photos of the fence that has been damaged as a result of the disaster event**

Photo evidence of the fence that needs repairing or replacing will help demonstrate the damage that has occurred.

**Q Can I use the grant to purchase fodder for livestock impacted by the disaster event?**

**A** Yes, you may recover the costs of purchasing fodder for the purpose of improving the immediate welfare of an animal that has been impacted by the eligible disaster event. You cannot use the grant to recover costs of ongoing fodder purchases.



**Tip: Use records to demonstrate the amount of fodder stock required**

Records of fodder stock including value before the disaster event and fodder stock required for the immediate welfare of the animal may be requested.

**Q Can I use the grant to recover costs for maintaining the health of livestock impacted by the disaster event?**

**A** Yes, the grant may be used to recover veterinary and other animal health care costs to treat the immediate welfare of livestock affected by the disaster.



**Tip: Keep records of veterinary treatments**

Records of veterinary treatments must align with animal accreditation systems (e.g. LPA accreditation) and may be requested.

**Q Can I use the grant to replace livestock that died as a direct result of the disaster?**

**A** Yes, you may use the grant to replace livestock that died as a result of the disaster event. The livestock must be replaced at a 'like for like' rate. This means that the new stock purchase must serve the same purpose, and function and occupy the same Adult Equivalent (AE) or Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE), or similar footprint as the livestock lost.



**Tip: Use livestock records to detail livestock lost as a result of the disaster event**

A categorised list including breed, sex, age, estimated weight and value of the livestock lost will be required to confirm the 'like for like' replacement stock being claimed under the grant. Livestock records, such as NLIS death records, may be requested.

Photo evidence of the livestock lost will help demonstrate the damage that has occurred.

**Q Can I use the grant to repair or restore agricultural land damaged as a result of the disaster?**

**A** Yes, you may use the grant to fund activities that will restore agricultural land to its original condition before the disaster. This includes repairing washouts and removing silt and debris. Purchasing chemicals to remove weeds that have not previously grown on the property is eligible provided there is evidence that demonstrates the introduction of the weeds and that treatment is not a normal activity.



**Tip: Keep agronomic records to claim restoration of agricultural land**

Agronomic records aligned with accreditation systems and best management practices may be requested such as soil test results prior to the disaster event and post disaster event showing comparisons.

**Q Can I use the grant to salvage crops, grain or feed?**

**A** If your crops are waterlogged as a result of the disaster event, you may use the grant to fund crop salvaging practices (e.g. aerial spraying nitrogen or applying additional fungicide). You may also use the grant to assist with harvesting damaged crops to use as feed for livestock and/or slashing cane.



**Tip: Use agronomic records to track crops lost as a result of the disaster event**

Agronomic records aligned with accreditation systems and best management practices may be requested. Labour involved in salvaging crops may be eligible under the grant (e.g. labour involved in propping up trees).

**Q Can the grant be used for replacing lost or damaged crops?**

**A** Yes, replacing lost or damaged crops and costs associated with the essential replacement of lost or damaged crops, may be eligible. Costs such as those for the plant, seed or seedling, crop establishment (e.g. chemicals for pre-planting weed and/or pest control) and nutrition (e.g. establishment fertiliser) will be considered. Pasture crops grown for livestock consumption and ratoon cane where the pasture/crop was planted over 12 months prior to the relevant disaster are excluded from eligibility.



**Tip: Use agronomic records and imagery to demonstrate extent of damage**

Agronomist and/or technical advisor reports, aerial photographs, high resolution satellite imagery, mill maps, farm maps and tax invoices for existing and/or previous planting costs should be included with your initial application to demonstrate the extent of the damage. Supply contracts, if held, will also assist QRIDA with assessing your application. Tax invoices and evidence of payment of actual replanting costs will be required for subsequent applications.