

Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme Guidelines

1. About the Scheme

- 1.1. The Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) aims to lower the cost of water supplied by Burnett Water, Seqwater and Sunwater for commercial irrigation by owner-operated businesses. The Scheme provides a 15% rebate on the amount paid for quarterly water bills of eligible businesses to the extent the amount is for a charge related to the supply of water for a period in the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 financial years.
- 1.2. The available assistance to eligible applicants is a 15% rebate of the relevant amount paid for the irrigation water bill (the bill).

2. Eligibility criteria

- 2.1. To be eligible for the 15% rebate, applicants must:
 - (a) represent a business that:
 - i. either is a Burnett Water, Seqwater or Sunwater customer or has an arrangement (such as a lease) to use and pay for a water allocation owned by a Burnett Water, Seqwater or Sunwater customer;
 - ii. is *owner-operated* (see section 2.2);
 - iii. has an Australian Business Number (ABN);
 - iv. either declares primary production income for tax purposes or has an owner of the business that declares primary production income for tax purposes;
 - v. grows crops requiring irrigation from time to time; and
 - vi. has fully paid the bill; or
 - (b) represent an *irrigation entity* (see section 4).
- 2.2. A business is considered owner-operated if:
 - (a) at least one *owner* spends labour on the business; and
NB: An owner is a sole trader or a partner in a partnership, a shareholder in the company or a beneficiary of the trust.
 - (b) it **is not** wholly or partly operated or owned by the following excluded entities:
 - i. a public company within the meaning of the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001* (Cth);
 - ii. an entity operating a managed investment scheme within the meaning of the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001* (Cth);
 - iii. a foreign company within the meaning of the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001* (Cth); or
 - iv. a registrable superannuation entity within the meaning of the *Commonwealth Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (Cth), which is any superannuation entity other than a self-managed superannuation fund.
- 2.3. Applicants are not eligible for assistance if they have previously received assistance under the Scheme for the same bill.

3. How to apply

- 3.1. Applications must be made before 31 December 2027, unless funding is exhausted prior, through QRIDA's online portal at qrda.qld.gov.au or via a paper application form.
- 3.2. In the initial application, an *owner-operated* business must include:
- (a) a copy of the bill(s) issued by Burnett Water, Seqwater or Sunwater;
 - (b) evidence of payment of the bill(s) (receipt, bank statement);
 - (c) evidence of primary production income (such as a letter from a qualified accountant to demonstrate that the business or at least one owner of the business has declared primary production income for tax purposes or a completed statutory declaration); and
 - (d) evidence of the business's irrigation activities (such as management accounts, invoices for purchase of materials required for irrigation, Department of Primary Industries Farm Business Resilience Plan that mentions the need to irrigate or a completed statutory declaration); and
 - (e) any other information stated as required in the application form.
- 3.3. Subsequent applications for *owner-operated* businesses must include:
- (a) a copy of the bill(s) issued by Burnett Water, Seqwater or Sunwater; and
 - (b) evidence of payment of the bill(s) (receipt, bank statement); and
 - (c) any other information stated as required in the application form.
- 3.4. Each application from an *irrigation entity* must include:
- (a) a copy of the relevant bill(s); and
 - (b) evidence of payment of the relevant bill(s); and
 - (c) any other information stated as required in the application form.
- 3.5. QRIDA may request further relevant information to determine an application. Failure to provide requested information will result in the application being considered to be withdrawn.

4. Irrigation entities

- 4.1. To be eligible for assistance, *irrigation entities* must:
- (a) be an entity listed in section 4.2; and
 - (b) have fully paid the bill.
- 4.2. An *irrigation entity* means each of the following entities:
- (a) Eton Irrigation Cooperative Ltd;
 - (b) Fairbairn Irrigation Network Ltd;
 - (c) Kelsey Creek Water Cooperative Ltd;
 - (d) Lower Burdekin Water;
 - (e) Mallowa Irrigation Ltd;
 - (f) Pioneer Valley Water Co-operative Ltd;
 - (g) Six Mile Creek Irrigators Cooperative Ltd; and
 - (h) Theodore Water Pty Ltd.

5. Conditions of assistance

- 5.1. The Scheme will close to applications on 31 December 2027, or when available funds are exhausted.
- 5.2. The owner of the business stated on the bill(s) must consent to the business name and customer reference number stated on the bill(s) to be shared with Burnett Water, Seqwater or Sunwater that issued the bill.
- 5.3. Applicants may submit more than one bill as part of their application.
- 5.4. QRIDA will assess each application for assistance under the Scheme in order of receipt and will provide written notice of decisions.
- 5.5. QRIDA must refuse an application if the available funds for the Scheme are insufficient to pay the assistance amount.

6. Conflict of interest

- 6.1. A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA if an applicant's private interests conflict with their obligations under the Scheme. Conflicts of interest could affect an applicant's eligibility for approval. A conflict of interest can be:
 - real (or actual);
 - apparent (or perceived); or
 - potential.
- 6.2. As part of their application, applicants will be asked to declare any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of their knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If applicants later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to their application, they must inform QRIDA in writing immediately.

7. Fraudulent applications

- 7.1. QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be referred to Queensland Police Service (QPS) and/or the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- 7.2. Fraud and corruption are criminal offences under sections 87, 408C and 408D of the Criminal Code (Qld). For corporations, directors and company officials, sections 184 and 596 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) will also apply.
- 7.3. Providing false and misleading information or documents in the QRIDA application process is an offence. Penalties may apply under sections 41 and 42 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (Qld).
- 7.4. By signing the application form, applicants acknowledge that the information they provide is true and accurate and agree to be bound by the Scheme's guidelines and provisions.
- 7.5. QRIDA reserves the right to pursue and recover funding provided under fraudulent and dishonest circumstance.

8. Your privacy

- 8.1. QRIDA's Privacy Policy, available at: qrda.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects, uses and discloses individuals' personal information.
- 8.2. The application portal for this Scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used, and disclosed.

9. More information

- 9.1 If you would like more information about this Scheme, contact QRIDA on **1800 623 946** or email irrigationpricingrebate@qrda.qld.gov.au