

Disaster Assistance Loans

Guidelines Small Business

For disaster events pre 2025

1. About the program

The objective of this assistance measure, provided under the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*, is to support communities to recover after an *eligible disaster*.

The Disaster Assistance Loans Scheme provides concessional loans to *small businesses* whose assets have been significantly damaged as a direct result of an *eligible disaster*.

Loans are provided for re-establishing the normal operations of the *small business*.

2. Available funding

2.1 The maximum loan amount is **\$250,000**; and

- a) the amount available is based on an assessment of an applicant's financial position, including any amount recovered under an insurance policy; and
- b) cannot be more than the amount of the net loss caused by an *eligible disaster*.

3. How funding may be used

3.1 Loan funds are provided to re-establish normal operations, this includes:

- a) repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment;
- b) repairing or replacing buildings;
- c) supplying stock for up to one month to replace lost stock and maintain liquidity of the business;
- d) meeting carry-on requirements, including:
 - i. sustenance
 - ii. paying rent or rates.

3.2 Loan funds are not provided to compensate for loss of income suffered as a result of the disaster.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 To be eligible for a loan:

- a) the applicant must be a *small business owner*;
- b) the applicant has sustained substantial damage to buildings, plant, equipment or stock as a result of an *eligible disaster*;
- c) the applicant's small business was carried on in the *defined disaster area* immediately before the *eligible disaster*.

4.2 To be eligible applicants must also:

- a) provide adequate security and loans must be secured by:
 - i. a mortgage of land or other assets satisfactory to QRIDA; and/or
 - ii. any other security considered necessary, for example – a Specific Security Agreement over plant and machinery, or a General Securities Agreement
- b) continue to carry on at the same location or elsewhere in the local government area where the small business was carried on prior to the *eligible disaster*;
- c) have reasonable prospects of carrying on the *small business* on a viable basis with the assistance given;



- d) have taken reasonable precautions to avoid or minimise loss or damage from the disaster, for example - adequate insurance;
- e) be responsible for the cost of essential repairs or replacement of the damaged assets (resulting in liquidity being severely affected);
- f) be unable to repair or replace the damage assets or return to viable operations from their own resources;
- g) have used all liquid assets and all normal credit sources up to normal credit limits (this will be assessed in relation to the expected cost of recovery and projected cash flow shortfalls);
- h) have not taken excessive risks in carrying on the *small business*.

5. Interest rates and loan terms

- 5.1 The term of the loan is decided by QRIDA up to a maximum of ten years.
- 5.2 An interest only period of up to two years may be granted.
- 5.3 The initial annual interest rates for these concessional loans are:

Rate	Eligible disaster
2.14%	Southern Summer Rainfall and Flooding, 9 December 2024 – 14 January 2025

6. How to apply

- 6.1 To be considered for a loan please submit a completed application form, accompanied by the documentation stated on the application form.
- 6.2 Application forms and related information can be accessed at qrda.qld.gov.au.
- 6.3 Complete applications are assessed in order of receipt and QRIDA may request further information to help assess an application.

7. Terms and conditions

- 7.1 Loans given are subject to an annual review and the necessary financial information must be provided when requested each year by QRIDA.
- 7.2 If QRIDA considers an applicant's financial position has improved it may increase the interest rate up to a commercial rate.
- 7.3 Loan recipients must provide *evidence of expenditure* in relation to amounts drawn against the loan when requested by QRIDA.
- 7.4 Penalties apply, including call-up of the loan provided apply where false or misleading information is provided.

8. Conflicts of interest

- 8.1 A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if the applicant's private interests conflict with their obligations under the agreement. Conflicts of interest could affect the awarding or performance of the applicant's agreement. A conflict of interest can be:
 - a) real (or actual);
 - b) apparent (or perceived); or
 - c) potential.
- 8.2 QRIDA will ask the applicant to declare, as part of the application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If the applicant later identifies that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to the agreement, the applicant must inform QRIDA in writing immediately.

9. Fraud

- 9.1 QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be referred to Queensland Police Service (QPS) and/or the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

- 9.2** Fraud and corruption is a criminal offence under Sections 408C, 408D and 87 of the *Criminal Code 1899* (Qld). For corporations, directors and company officials, Sections 596 and 184 of the *Australian Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) will also apply.
- 9.3** 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).
- 9.4** By signing the application form, you acknowledge that the information you provide is true and accurate, and agree to be bound by the scheme's guidelines and provisions.
- 9.5** QRIDA reserves the right to pursue and recover funding provided under fraudulent and dishonest circumstance.

10. Privacy

- 10.1** 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.
- 10.2** The application form for this Scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used and disclosed.

11. Defined disaster areas

<i>Eligible disaster</i>	<i>Defined disaster areas</i>	<i>Application closing date</i>
Southern Summer Rainfall and Flooding, 9 December 2024 – 14 January 2025	South Burnett Regional Council	31 December 2026

12. More information

For more information on the Disaster Assistance Loans Scheme or to get in touch with one of QRIDA's Regional Area Managers (RAMs), contact us on **1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrda.qld.gov.au.

13. Definitions

Defined disaster area means, for an *eligible disaster*, the area that the appropriate Minister has defined for the purpose of activating the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*. These are published on QRIDA's website (also see Section 11 above).

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements means the funding arrangements as agreed between the Commonwealth and the State for providing financial assistance to communities affected by an *eligible disaster* (available on the Australian Government Disaster Assist website).

Eligible disaster means a bushfire, cyclone, flood, earthquake, storm surge, landslide, meteorite strike, tornado, storm – including hail, rain and/or wind event or terrorist attack.

Evidence of expenditure means a tax invoice showing full details of goods or services (identifiable as relating to damage from the eligible disaster) and the corresponding official receipt. The relevant cheque butt or bank transfer documentation is required if unable to provide an official receipt.

Small business means a business that holds an Australian Business Number (ABN), is not a public company within the meaning of the Corporations Act and employs fewer than 20 full-time (or full-time equivalent) employees. A *small business* does not include a body corporate under the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* (Qld).

Small business owner means

- a sole trader who spends the majority of his or her labour on, and derives the majority of his or her income from a *small business*; or
- in relation to a partnership, company or trust that carries on a *small business*, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust who spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the *small business*.