Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants
Exceptional Circumstance Recovery Grants Guidelines Primary Producers

North Queensland Monsoon Trough, Associated Tropical Cyclone Koji and Severe Weather commencing 24 December 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 **Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme** (Exceptional) provides an **exceptional circumstances grant** to *primary producers* to help pay for the costs of clean-up and *reinstatement* of *primary production enterprises* that have suffered direct damage as a result of an *eligible disaster*.

2. Available funding

2.1 The maximum **exceptional circumstances grant** amount is **$75,000**.

2.2 An **initial amount** of up to **$10,000** is available (an **initial** claim). To support an initial claim evidence of the direct damage such as photographs, quotations, tax invoices and official receipts is required.

2.3 A **subsequent amount** of up to **$65,000** is available (a **subsequent** claim). To support subsequent claims full evidence of payment is required. (This evidence must also cover any amounts claimed under the initial claim if not already provided).

Note: **Prior to the Closing Day**, multiple applications can be made up to the maximum amount available under the exceptional circumstances grant.

3. How funding may be used

3.1 Grants are provided to help pay for the costs of clean-up and *reinstatement* of the *primary production enterprise*. This includes:

a) engaging a tradesperson to conduct a safety inspection of damage to a property, premises or equipment;

b) hiring or leasing equipment or materials to clean a property, premises or equipment;

c) purchasing equipment or materials to clean a property, premises or equipment if QRIDA is satisfied:

   i. the equipment or materials are not ordinarily available for hire or lease (Examples - cleaning chemicals, gloves, masks, brooms, mops, shovels or buckets); or

   ii. the equipment is or the materials are reasonably necessary for cleaning the property, premises or equipment and are not readily available for hire or lease. (In this instance assistance towards purchase is available to the assessed hire or lease cost of the item being purchased).

d) employing a person to clean a property, premises or equipment if –

   i. the cost would not ordinarily have been incurred in the absence of the *eligible disaster*; or

   ii. the cost exceeds the cost of employing a person to clean the property, premises or equipment that would ordinarily have been incurred in the absence of the *eligible disaster;*

e) removing and disposing of debris or damaged goods (includes injured or dead livestock and lost or damaged crops) and material;

f) repairing a building or repairing or replacing fittings in a building, if the repair or replacement is essential for resuming operation of the *primary production enterprise*. (Funding is not available for repairs to a building that is used as a dwelling, unless it is used for carrying on the *primary production enterprise*, for example staff accommodation);

g) purchasing, hiring or leasing equipment or materials that are essential for immediately resuming operation of the *primary production enterprise;* and

h) any of the following –

i. repairing or reconditioning essential plant or equipment;

ii. repairing or replacing fencing on a property, other than to the extent, the cost may be recovered under other assistance* from the Commonwealth or State;

iii. purchasing fodder, other than to the extent, the cost may be recovered under other assistance* from the Commonwealth or State;

iv. maintaining the health of livestock;

v. replacing dead livestock;

vi. repairing or restoring fields;

vii. salvaging crops, grain or feed;

viii. replacing lost or damaged plants (including root stock, seedlings, seeds and tube stock, but does not include crops) if the replacement is essential for immediately resuming operation of the *primary production enterprise;*

ix. *replacing* lost or damaged *eligible crops* with the same or comparable crop if the replacement is essential for immediately resuming operation of the *primary production enterprise*;
NB: assistance will cover the eligible crop with a crop of a different species, the lesser of—
(i) the cost of replacing the eligible crop with the crop of the different species; or
(ii) the cost of replacing the eligible crop with a crop of the same species.

x. replacing essential water that has been used for firefighting; and

xi. carting water.

***Examples of other assistance**

- Under the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements:*
  - a freight subsidy for transporting fencing materials; or
  - a fodder subsidy for carting emergency fodder; or
  - a concessional loan under the Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans Scheme for paying for fodder or repair or replacement of fencing.

3.2 An applicant is not eligible for assistance under the scheme:

a) for loss of income as a result of the eligible disaster;

b) if the primary producer is entitled to receive an amount under a policy of insurance for the relevant costs claimed.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 To be eligible for an exceptional circumstances grant, the applicant must:

a) be a primary producer;

b) hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the eligible disaster;

c) have a primary production enterprise that is located in the defined area for the eligible disaster that has suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster;

d) have been engaged in carrying on the primary production enterprise when affected by the eligible disaster;

e) be primarily responsible for meeting the costs claimed in the application;

f) for costs relating to 3.1 h), v., to ix., provide satisfactory evidence of the loss or damage; and

g) intend to re-establish the primary production enterprise in the defined disaster area for the eligible disaster.

4.2 An applicant may also be eligible for an exceptional circumstances grant if both of the following apply:

a) The applicant's *primary production enterprise* is located outside the *defined disaster area* for the *eligible disaster* but is carried on at least sometime on a regular basis in the area.

b) Plant or equipment of the *primary production enterprise* situated in the *defined disaster area* has been damaged as a result of the *eligible disaster.*

4.3 An applicant is *not* eligible for assistance if they are—

a) a non-government institution; and

b) the subject of a *disqualifying disclosure* in relation to the National Redress Scheme.

See Section 13 for ***disqualifying disclosure*** definition.

5. Eligible separate businesses

5.1 Applicants who operate more than one *primary production enterprise,* for example under a single ABN at separate locations, may apply for assistance for each *eligible separate business* up to the maximum amount of assistance available for the relevant *defined disaster area* and determined by the establishment notice.

5.2 When determining an application on this basis QRIDA may consider (but is not limited to):

a) the staffing arrangements of the separate business;

b) whether the business has its own plant equipment or stock;

c) the accounting arrangements of the separate business;

d) whether the separate business operates under its own trading name;

e) the commercial viability and autonomy of each business.

6. How to apply

6.1 To be considered for assistance under the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grant Scheme (Exceptional) please submit a completed application form, accompanied by all of the documentation stated on the application form before the application *closing day*. This includes a rates notice/lease agreement, 5-10 photographs of the damage, evidence of payment (or quotes when applying for the initial grant amount), and details of any insurance held. The same application form may be used when submitting both an initial claim and a subsequent claim.

6.2 Application forms and related information can be accessed at qrida.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 Where a disaster assistance scheme has been activated for more than one of the following categories, applicants may only apply for assistance under the scheme in only one of the following capacities:

a) Primary producer; or

b) Small business owner; or

c) Non-profit organisation.

7.2 Applicants must retain all tax invoices, *official receipts,* bank statements, quotations or other similar records for assistance received under the scheme until one year after the *closing day* for applications for the *eligible disaster.*

7.3 Applicants must consent to QRIDA conducting an audit of quotations, tax invoices, *official receipts,* bank statements or other similar records to verify the amounts given under the scheme have been used in accordance with the claim. Penalties may apply for false or misleading information.

7.4 Applicants must provide authorisation for QRIDA to contact their insurance company to confirm or verify entitlements, or the outcome of any claims made in relation to the *eligible disaster.*

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.

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: qrida.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

Eligible disaster	*Defined disaster areas*	*Application closing day*
North Queensland Monsoon Trough, Associated Tropical Cyclone Koji and Severe Weather commencing 24 December 2025	• Carpentaria Shire Council • Cloncurry Shire Council • Croydon Shire Council • Flinders Shire Council • McKinlay Shire Council • Richmond Shire Council • Winton Shire Council	6 January 2027

12. More information

For more information on the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme contact us on Freecall 1800 623 946 or email contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au.

13. Definitions

Closing day is the day stated in section 11 by which applications must be received by QRIDA.

Defined disaster area for an *eligible disaster* means 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).

Disqualifying disclosure means if the National Redress Scheme operator makes one or more of the following disclosures about the relevant entity under the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (Cth)—

a) a disclosure authorised under section 95A(1), in which:

   i. the application of a person applying for redress under the National Redress Scheme has identified the *relevant entity* as being involved in the abuse of the person; or

   ii. the national redress scheme operator has reasonable grounds to believe the *relevant entity* may be connected with the abuse of a person that is within the scope of the National Redress Scheme.

b) a disclosure authorised under section 95A (2)(c), (e), or (g), where the operator has contacted the *relevant entity* about participating in the National Redress Scheme and the *relevant entity*—

   i. did not respond despite having reasonable time to do so;

   ii. informed the operator that they do not intend to participate; or

   iii. informed the operator they do not agree to being listed as a participating institution under section 164B.

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

Eligible separate business means a *primary production enterprise* that would be a commercially viable and autonomous business if the other separate businesses carried on by the eligible entity ceased to operate.

Evidence of payment means:

a) tax invoice(s) showing full details of the goods or services provided. The goods and services described on each invoice must be clearly identifiable having been paid by the applicant and being related to damage from the *eligible disaster*; and

b) evidence of payment for these tax invoices. A copy must be provided of an applicant's bank transfer(s) and/or bank statement(s) with any relevant *official receipt(s)* from suppliers or contractors.

Official receipt means a receipt including the name and address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the receipt and a description of each item to which the receipt relates.

Primary producer means:

a) a sole trader who -

   a. spends the majority of their labour on the *primary production enterprise*; and

   b. either –

      i. derives the majority of their income from the *primary production enterprise*; or

ii. in the opinion of QRIDA, based on the demonstrated production potential of the *primary production enterprise*, will, within a reasonable period of time, derive the majority of their incomes from the *primary production enterprise*

b) in relation to a partnership, company or trust that carries on a *primary production enterprise* for which the partners, shareholders or beneficiaries –

a. spend the majority of their labour on the *primary production enterprise*; and

b. either –

i. derive the majority of their income from the *primary production enterprise*; or

ii. in the opinion of QRIDA, based on the demonstrated production potential of the *primary production enterprise*, will, within a reasonable period of time, derive the majority of their incomes from the primary production enterprise.

Primary production enterprise means

a) a business that is carried on by a *primary producer* and involves primary production, including the agricultural, apicultural, aqua-cultural, commercial wild-catch fishing, forestry, grazing and horticultural industries; and

b) for which an entity holds an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Reinstatement means carrying out activities that are necessary to help the enterprise continue or resume production at a similar level as before the *eligible disaster*.

Relevant entity means the primary producer, small business, or non-profit organisation that is the subject of an application for assistance under the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme.