

Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants

Exceptional Circumstance Recovery Grants

Guidelines Primary Producers

Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 21 March – 19 May 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**.

- a) An **initial amount of up to \$5,000** 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.
- b) A **subsequent amount of up to \$70,000** is available (a **subsequent** claim). To support subsequent claims full *evidence of* payment is required. (This evidence must also include 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* and have 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), (vi) and (vii) 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*.

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 a Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants 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 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 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* (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 day</i>
Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balonne Shire Council • Barcaldine Regional Council • Barcoo Shire Council 	2 October 2026

Rainfall and Flooding, 21 March – 19 May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackall-Tambo Regional Council • Boulia Shire Council • Bulloo Shire Council • Diamantina Shire Council • Longreach Shire Council • Murweh Shire Council • Paroo Shire Council • Quilpie Shire Council • Winton Shire Council 	
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12. More information

For more information on the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme (Exceptional) contact QRIDA on **1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrda.qld.gov.au.

13. Definitions

Closing day is the day defined 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).

Eligible crop means:

- For **pasture based crop** – a crop that was planted not more than 1 year before the *eligible disaster* in which the crop was lost or damaged and has been grown for consumption by grazing animals, whether as pasture or after harvesting as hay or silage or
- For **sugar cane** – a crop that had not had its first harvest at the time of the *eligible disaster* in which the crop was lost or damaged; or
- a crop other than sugar cane or pasture-based crop.

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 -
 - i. spends the majority of their labour on the *primary production enterprise*; and
 - ii. either –
 - A). derives the majority of their income from the primary production enterprise; or

- B). 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 –
 - i. spend the majority of their labour on the primary production enterprise; and
 - ii. either –
 - A). derive the majority of their income from the primary production enterprise; or
 - B). 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 business

- a) that
 - i. 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; or
 - ii. supports primary production; and

Examples include—

Classifications under Australian New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Division A includes Subdivision 05 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services such as: shearing business, mustering business, silage baling business, farm irrigation services, timber plantation maintenance services

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

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