

Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme – Phase 2

1. About the Scheme

- 1.1. The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme – Phase 2 (the Scheme) provides financial assistance of up to \$1,387,500 to assist eligible entities in paying the necessary wages and salaries and other costs associated with administering and implementing particular activities identified in a *Regional Drought Resilience Plan (Plan)*.
- 1.2. The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is administering the Scheme on behalf of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

2. Amount of financial assistance

- 2.1. The maximum amount of financial assistance for each *Plan* is:
 - (a) for an **activity grant** – up to **\$1,000,000** (exclusive of GST).
 - (b) for a **remuneration grant** – up to **\$387,500** (exclusive of GST).
- 2.2. The maximum amount of funding under the Scheme is **\$1,387,500** (exclusive of GST) per *Plan*.

3. Activity grant

- 3.1. An activity grant is a grant of financial assistance for the costs of implementing eligible activities.
- 3.2. To be eligible for the **activity grant**, the *applicant* must:
 - (a) be an entity that is identified in the *Plan* as being part of the partnership that developed the *Plan* (*plan partner entity*); and
 - (b) have been issued an *eligibility notice* for the eligible activities.

4. Eligible activity

- 4.1. An activity is an eligible activity for the *relevant region*, if:
 - (a) it is identified in the *Plan*; and
 - (b) the implementation of the activity:
 - i. is designed to improve *drought resilience* for a *relevant region*;
 - ii. is carried out after the *Plan* has been published on the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's [website](#);
 - iii. will be completed no later than the day the Scheme closes.
 - (c) the implementation of the activity:
 - i. has not previously been the subject of an activity grant; or
 - ii. is subject to an activity grant that relates to an amount of financial assistance recommended in an *eligibility notice* to be provided across more than 1 financial year.

- 4.2. An activity is not an eligible activity if its implementation has been the subject of other financial assistance from the Commonwealth or the State Government, unless the financial assistance was intended to be used in conjunction with an activity grant for implementing the activity.

5. Remuneration grant

- 5.1. The remuneration grant is a grant of financial assistance for the wages, salary or fees to a person employed, or otherwise engaged, to provide an eligible service.
- 5.2. To be eligible for a **remuneration grant**, the *applicant* must:
- (a) be an entity that is identified in the *Plan* as being part of the partnership that developed the *Plan* (*plan partner entity*); and
 - (b) have been issued an *eligibility notice* for the eligible services to be carried out for the *Plan*.

6. Eligible service

- 6.1. A service is an eligible service if:
- (a) the service assists a *plan partner entity* with:
 - i. administering activities related to the *Plan*; or
 - ii. implementing eligible activities identified in the *Plan*; and
 - (b) the provision of the service:
 - i. has not previously been the subject of a remuneration grant; or
 - ii. is subject to a remuneration grant that relates to an amount of financial assistance recommended in an *eligibility notice* to be provided across more than 1 financial year.
- 6.2. A service is not an eligible service if it has been the subject of other financial assistance from the Commonwealth or the State Government, unless the financial assistance was intended to be used in conjunction with a remuneration grant for the funding of the service.

7. Eligibility notices

- 7.1. A *plan partner entity* must apply to DPI and be issued an *eligibility notice* for an eligible activity or eligible service before applying for financial assistance under the Scheme.
- 7.2. The *eligibility notice* will:
- (a) identify the *applicant* as the *plan owner*;
 - (b) state that the *applicant* may apply to QRIDA for:
 - i. an activity grant for the implementation of the eligible activity;
 - ii. a remuneration grant for the fees, salaries or wages the entity pays a person employed, or otherwise engaged, to provide the eligible service;
 - (c) state details of the eligible activities or eligible services for which the *applicant* may apply to QRIDA for an activity grant or a remuneration grant; and
 - (d) state a recommended amount of financial assistance the *applicant* can apply for each financial year.

8. How to apply to QRIDA

- 8.1. To apply for financial assistance, the *applicant* must submit the Scheme application form available on QRIDA's website via email to regionaldroughtresilience@qrda.qld.gov.au or post to GPO Box 211, Brisbane QLD 4001.
 - 8.2. Applications must be submitted to QRIDA before the Scheme closing day, **29 June 2029** unless extended.
 - 8.3. Applications for an **activity grant** must include:
 - (a) the relevant *eligibility notice*;
 - (b) details of the implementation of the eligible activities;
 - (c) the amount of financial assistance requested; and
 - (d) any other documents stated in the Scheme application form.
 - 8.4. Applications for a **remuneration grant** must include:
 - (a) the relevant *eligibility notice*;
 - (b) details of the amount of fees, salaries, or wages related to the provision of the eligible services;
 - (c) the amount of financial assistance requested; and
 - (d) any other documents stated in the Scheme application form.
- 9. Conditions of financial assistance**
- 9.1. Approved *applicants* must enter into a written agreement with QRIDA that sets out the terms under which the financial assistance is provided and must comply with those terms.
 - 9.2. If QRIDA decides to approve an application under the Scheme, it must not grant an amount of financial assistance that exceeds:
 - (a) the total recommended amount for the eligible services or eligible activities; or
 - (b) the amount stated as the maximum amount for the relevant financial year, as per the *applicant's eligibility notice*.
 - 9.3. If the application is approved under the Scheme, the *applicant* must:
 - (a) keep the tax invoices for payments made by the *applicant* for which the *applicant* receives financial assistance under the Scheme, until the day that is one year after the day the Scheme closes;
 - (b) consent to QRIDA conducting an audit on the records to verify the financial assistance given to the *applicant* under the Scheme is used in accordance with the written agreement for financial assistance;
 - (c) if requested by QRIDA, give QRIDA a report about how the financial assistance is enabling the entity to achieve outcomes consistent with the purpose of the financial assistance.
 - (d) consent to QRIDA to share the report or information included in the report with the *Chief Executive* and the *Commonwealth Minister for drought*;
 - 9.4. QRIDA must approve an application if it is satisfied that:
 - (a) the *applicant* is an eligible entity;
 - (b) for an application for an activity grant – the activity is an eligible activity;

- (c) for an application for a remuneration grant – the service is an eligible service;
- (d) if financial assistance was previously granted to the *applicant* under the Scheme for the eligible activity or eligible service, the *applicant* has complied with the written agreement in relation to the financial assistance.

10. Terms and conditions

- 10.1. QRIDA must refuse to approve an application if the funds for the Scheme are not sufficient to pay for the financial assistance requested in the application.
- 10.2. The *Minister* may extend the closing day by an extension notice, to a day that is not later than 28 June 2030. A copy of the extension notice must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within 14 days after the copy of the extension notice is published on QRIDA's website.
- 10.3. QRIDA must publish a copy of the extension notice on the QRIDA website as soon as practicable after the notice is made.
- 10.4. Incomplete applications will not be assessed until all required information is received.
- 10.5. If QRIDA requests the *applicant* to provide further information to decide the application, the *applicant* must provide the information. If the *applicant* does not comply with a request made by QRIDA to provide further information, the *applicant's* application will not be assessed until all required information is received.
- 10.6. If QRIDA receives more than one application for an activity grant relating to the same implementation of an activity for the same *Plan*, QRIDA may refuse to approve any or all of the applications.
- 10.7. QRIDA must consider and decide to approve or refuse to approve each application received under the Scheme that complies with the application requirements.
- 10.8. QRIDA must give the *applicant* written notice of the decision.
- 10.9. Approved financial assistance will be paid to the *applicant's* validated bank account.

11. Conflict of interest

- 11.1. A conflict of interest may arise due to a dealing with QRIDA if an *applicant's* or *plan partner entity's* private interests conflict with their obligations under the Scheme. Conflicts of interest could affect your eligibility. A conflict of interest can be:
 - real (or actual);
 - apparent (or perceived); or
 - potential.
- 11.2. As part of their application, QRIDA will ask *applicants* to declare any 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.

12. Fraud

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

- 12.2. Fraud and corruption are a criminal offence under sections 87, 408C and 408D of the *Criminal Code 1899* (Qld). For corporations, directors and company officials, sections 596 and 184 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) will also apply.
- 12.3. 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).
- 12.4. By signing the application form, *applicants* acknowledge that the information they provide is true and accurate and agree to be bound by the provisions under the Scheme.
- 12.5. QRIDA reserves the right to pursue and recover funding provided under fraudulent and dishonest circumstance.

13. Privacy

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

14. More information

- 14.1. More information about the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme – Phase 2, is available on QRIDA's website at grida.qld.gov.au or by contacting QRIDA on **1800 623 946** or emailing regionaldroughtresilience@grida.qld.gov.au.

15. Definitions

Applicant means an entity applying for financial assistance under the Scheme.

Chief Executive means the *Chief Executive* of the department in which the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld) is administered.

Commonwealth Minister for drought means the *Drought Minister* within the meaning of the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* (Cth), section 5.

Drought resilience see the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* (Cth), section 5.

Eligibility notice means a written notice that is given by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to the *plan owner* to apply for financial assistance for an eligible activity or eligible service under the Scheme.

Regional drought resilience plan (Plan) is a plan that is:

- (a) about *drought resilience* for a relevant region; and
- (b) approved by the *Commonwealth Minister for drought* under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; and
- (c) published on the Commonwealth Department's website.

Relevant region, in relation to a *plan partner entity*, means a particular area or region of the state identified for the *regional drought resilience plan*.

Minister means the *Minister* responsible for administering the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld).

Plan owner means the *plan partner entity* who was issued the *eligibility notice*.

Plan partner entity is an entity that is identified in a *regional drought resilience plan* as being a part of the partnership that developed the *Plan*.

Scheme means the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme - Phase 2 as set out in Schedule 68 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* (Qld).