



# North Queensland Restocking & On-farm Infrastructure Grants

## Northern & Central Queensland Monsoon & Flooding, 20 December 2022 - 30 April 2023

### 1. About the scheme

The Australian Government is providing matched co-contribution grant funding to assist *primary production enterprises* impacted by the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding, 20 December 2022 – 30 April 2023 event, to assist in the cost of replacing livestock and restoring or rebuilding lost and damaged on-farm infrastructure.

The purpose of the grants is to assist in restoring eligible *primary production enterprises* to their productive state, with respect to these items, immediately before the *disaster event* occurred.

This scheme is funded to the amount of \$5 million by the Australian Government and is being delivered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

The Restocking and On-farm Infrastructure Grants are in addition to assistance available to impacted *primary production enterprises* under the joint Australian and Queensland Government Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance schemes.

The scheme will remain open until 31 December 2025, or until available funding is fully distributed, whichever comes first.

### 2. Assistance available

2.1. Grants of up to **\$150,000** are available under the scheme for an eligible *primary production enterprise* for the purposes of:

- a) restocking lost livestock; and
- b) restoring or replacing lost or damaged on-farm infrastructure.

2.2. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the availability of funds to match grant funding requested with an equal cash co-contribution. Cash co-contributions by applicants:

- a) must be used for eligible purposes; and
- b) can include, but may not be limited to:
  - i. funds on hand including in bank accounts, terms deposits, Farm Management Deposits or other investments;
  - ii. finance raised from private or commercial sources on normal commercial credit terms;
  - iii. finance raised from government concessional loan sources; or
  - iv. amounts already expended on restocking or on-farm infrastructure restoration in relation to direct damage caused by the *disaster event*; and
- c) cannot include funds from any government or non-government grant or charitable source.



### 3. How grants may be used

3.1. Grants under the scheme must be used to cover costs associated with the following items:

- a) replacing livestock that are assessed as being lost as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*;
- b) transport or freight costs associated with the replacement of livestock as per 3.1.a),
- c) replacing or repairing on-farm infrastructure that are assessed as lost or damaged as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:
  - i. plant and equipment;
  - ii. farm buildings except housing;
  - iii. yards;
  - iv. fences;
  - v. roads;
  - vi. dams and irrigation earthworks; and
  - vii. paddock and field restoration.

### 4. Eligibility criteria

4.1. To be eligible to receive a grant under the scheme applicants must:

- a) be a *primary producer* and have a *primary production enterprise* that is located in the *eligible area* and has suffered from:
  - i. loss of livestock;
  - ii. loss or damage to on-farm infrastructure as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*; and
- b) be able to demonstrate and have verified the losses suffered as a result of the *disaster event*; and
- c) have been engaged in carrying on the *primary production enterprise* when affected by the *disaster event*.

4.2. In addition, applicants must:

- a) have been approved for a grant under the *Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme* for primary producers in relation to damage caused to the *primary production enterprise* within the *eligible area* by the *disaster event* while the scheme is available, prior to applying for the Restocking and On-farm Infrastructure Grants; and
- b) demonstrate the availability of funds to match grant funding requested with an equal cash co-contribution (as per 2.2.); and
- c) demonstrate the *primary production enterprise* will be *financially viable* and have the support of its commercial lenders after acquittal of both the grant amount provided and matched co-contribution funding, where relevant; and
- d) be solely responsible for incurring the costs claimed in the application.

4.3. An applicant may also be eligible for a grant if:

- a) the applicant's *primary production enterprise* is located outside of the *eligible area*, but is carried on at least sometimes on a regular basis in the area; and
- b) the primary production enterprise had:
  - i. loss of livestock; or
  - ii. loss or damage to on-farm infrastructure situated in the *eligible area* and the losses or damage are assessed as occurring as a direct consequence of the *disaster event*.

4.4. Applicants will not be eligible for a grant, or part of a grant, if the applicant:

- a) does not meet the eligibility requirements set out at 4.1- 4.3; or
- b) has received, or has been approved to receive, financial assistance for costs associated with the items set out under 3.1 from another government assistance scheme, however

- this does not preclude eligibility for the payment of grant monies for items outside of those for which government assistance has been received, or for amounts in excess of the value of the government assistance received; or
- c) is entitled to receive a payment under an insurance policy for costs directly associated with an item set out at 3.1, however this does not preclude eligibility for the payment of grant monies for items outside of those insured, or for amounts in excess of the value insured.

### 5. How to apply

- 5.1. Complete the application form available on QRIDA's website at: [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au) and submit to QRIDA by post, email or fax.
- 5.2. Clear evidence of livestock deaths or infrastructure damage must be provided to support requests for a grant. This must include quotes or invoices associated with costs for restocking or infrastructure repair or replacement. This evidence may also be supported with photographs.
- 5.3. Any quotes or invoices provided to support an application, or requests for payment of grant funds should reflect current market prices for the goods or services being purchased. QRIDA may request further quotations be provided to substantiate requests.
- 5.4. Goods or services being funded under the scheme should be purchased from properly accredited or qualified suppliers or contractors.
- 5.5. Suppliers or contractors of goods and services should not be employed by an entity owned or partially owned by the applicant.
- 5.6. Penalties may be applied under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (Qld) if any information provided in an application is found to be untrue, false or misleading. Applicants should also be aware that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

### 6. How applications will be assessed and decided

- 6.1. Upon receiving applications, QRIDA will acknowledge receipt by email or post and advise if any further information is required to commence assessment of the application.
- 6.2. QRIDA will assess applications in date received order and incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is received.
- 6.3. Complete applications will be allocated to a scheme assessor who will contact applicants to discuss their application and ensure QRIDA fully understands the funding request. QRIDA's assessor will also liaise with business advisors or financiers as necessary.
- 6.4. QRIDA will decide grant applications and make a grant offer in writing to approved applicants.
- 6.5. QRIDA may issue conditional approvals to applicants, for instance approvals subject to satisfactory finance towards a co-contribution being arranged.

### 7. Funding arrangements

- 7.1. Approved applicants will be required to undertake an assessment of loss by QRIDA to determine an initial overall amount of monies that may be granted under the scheme.
  - a) Where an initial assessment is undertaken using incomplete or unverified information, QRIDA may request additional information in accordance with the scheme's compliance plan.
- 7.2. Approved applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with QRIDA.
- 7.3. To draw on approved grants, grant recipients may either:
  - a) submit fully paid official invoices and official receipts and QRIDA will reimburse 50 percent of the receipt amount to the grant recipient; or
  - b) submit official invoices and QRIDA will pay 50 percent of the invoice amount to suppliers.

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- 7.4. Grant recipients are able to make multiple requests to draw against the approved amount of monies (as assessed at 7.1) until such time as the cumulative grant funding totals the grant amount approved.
- 7.5. Funding received under the *Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme* must be fully acquitted before any grant funding under this scheme can be distributed.

### 8. Conflict of interest

- 8.1. A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if your private interests' conflict with your obligations under the scheme. Conflicts of interest could affect your eligibility for conditional approval. A conflict of interest can be:
  - real (or actual);
  - apparent (or perceived); or
  - potential.
- 8.2. We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your application, you must inform us in writing immediately.

### 9. Fraudulent applications

- 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 are criminal offences 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. Terms and conditions

- 10.1. Successful applicants will be required to:
  - a) provide any additional information required by QRIDA to assess an application, including assessment of losses arising from the *disaster event*; and
  - b) agree to subsequent audits under the scheme including permission for on-farm access to confirm that grant and co-contribution funding provided have been expended on approved purposes.
- 10.2. A joint Commonwealth – Queensland officials level Steering Committee may review and vary these guidelines as required. Any revised guidelines will be published on QRIDA's website at: [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au).

### 11. Definitions

**Disaster event** means the disaster event described by the Queensland Government as the Northern and Central Queensland Monsoon and Flooding, 20 December 2022 – 30 April 2023 event.

**Eligible area** means the areas covered by the Queensland local government authorities of:

- Boulia Shire Council
- Burke Shire Council

- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Cloncurry Shire Council
- Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mornington Shire Council
- Mount Isa Shire Council

**Financial viability** means a farm business is considered financially viable when the business is assessed as being able to generate sufficient net profit under normal seasonal and market conditions after fixed and variable expenses to:

- service borrowings at commercial interest rates;
- provide an adequate standard of living for relevant members of the farm business;
- allow investment on-farm to maintain the farm's productive assets;
- provide funds for investment that increases long-term productivity.

**Official invoice** means an invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant.

**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.

**Extraordinary Disaster Recovery Grants Scheme** means the scheme described in Schedule 23 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* (Qld).

**Primary producer** means:

- a) a sole trader who spends the majority of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from a *primary production enterprise*; or
- b) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, 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 *primary production enterprise*; or
- c) a sole trader who is able to demonstrate that they have the potential to spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the *primary production enterprise*; or
- d) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust are able to demonstrate that they have the potential to spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the *primary production enterprise*.

**Primary production enterprise** means a business that:

- a) is established under the legal structure of a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company;
- b) is carried on by a *primary producer* and trades in a primary production industry, including the agricultural, horticultural, grazing, pastoral, apicultural or aqua-cultural industries;
- c) undertakes all primary production aspects of the business wholly in Australia;
- d) is registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN) and is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- e) is not under external administration or bankruptcy;
- f) is not a public company under the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).