



**Rural
Assistance
Authority**

NSW Government's Mouse Control Program - Zinc Phosphide Rebate

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the NSW Mouse Control Program Zinc Phosphide Rebate for Primary Producers?

The rebate is to assist primary producers in eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs) experiencing financial hardship as a result of the mouse plague (see question-and-answer to this criterion on page 3).

This one-off rebate can assist with some of the costs of buying zinc phosphide mouse bait and aims to reduce impacts on productivity and biosecurity risks caused by the mice plague.

Service NSW are offering mouse control rebates (see question-and-answer information below).

What is zinc phosphide?

Zinc phosphide is a vertebrate poison, registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for in-paddock treatment of mice. Zinc phosphide baits are registered for the control of rodent infestations at a broad scale and can be broadcast by ground spreaders or aircraft.

Zinc phosphide is not approved for use in residential areas.

Who can apply for the rebate?

Primary producers who have bought zinc phosphide bait to help with the eradication of mice as part of the current mouse plague, between 1 January 2021 to 17 December 2021. To be eligible for the subsidy all of the eligibility criteria as stated in the program guidelines must be met.

To access the program guidelines visit:

www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

How long do I have to apply?

Applications must be submitted by Friday 17 December 2021. All invoices must be submitted by Friday 28 January 2022.

You are encouraged to apply as early as possible. As total funding for the program is capped, the program may be closed early. You should visit the RAA website regularly for the latest information regarding application close dates.

How much can I claim, and do I need to repay the rebate?

Up to 50 per cent of zinc phosphide bait costs, from \$500 to \$10,000 per ABN. This is a rebate not a loan, so you do not need to repay the funds.

Use of zinc phosphide is generally an eligible deduction under ATO guidelines. However, before applying for financial assistance under this program, you may want to seek advice from your business or financial advisers in relation to its tax implications for you.

Can I apply for the rebate before I have incurred the expenses?

Yes, application forms can be completed online before costs are claimed. You can submit invoices later using the Claim Request form on our website. Invoices can be submitted up until the closing date or until funds are exhausted. Please refer to the program guidelines and RAA website for updates on closing date.

Please note: Only 1 claim is to be submitted per approved application, per ABN. You will need to submit all your invoices in one claim, you cannot claim in stages.

Can I use the rebate on costs associated with applying zinc phosphide bait?

No, the rebate is for zinc phosphide baits only. Application costs such as spreading by aircraft or ground rig are not eligible. Other costs such as cleaning and transportation are also excluded.

You may be eligible to apply for the NSW mouse control rebate through Service NSW to help with some of the additional costs:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/nsw-mouse-control-rebate>



What information do I need to provide with my application?

Applicants must provide a complete application form and;

- Local Land Service Rates notice or Local Land Service – Land and Stock return
- 2020 tax returns and financial statements for the farm business, plus personal tax returns for all members of the business
- May include invoices (not mandatory at application stage) or you can claim invoices later, prior to program closing.

When would I need to provide further financial information?

You would only be asked to provide further financial information if the information provided did not confirm your eligibility for the program.

Example: If the financials provided for the applying entity did not show that the business earns the minimum \$20,000 in Primary Production income, the RAA would contact you to seek further financial information that would demonstrate this.

What do I do if I don't have my current tax return?

You can provide permission for the NSW RAA to contact your accountant directly to obtain your 2020 financial year tax returns and financial statements.

I don't have a copy of my Local Land Service (LLS) rates notice or LLS Land and Stock return?

LLS can send you a copy of your LLS rates notice and/or LLS land and stock return. Request a copy on 1300 795 299

What evidence do I need to provide to receive my payment?

The rebate will be paid upon receipt of eligible tax invoices for the purchase of zinc phosphide baits purchased between 1 January 2021 and 17 December 2021.

Do I need to provide invoices for my claim upfront?

No - you can elect to provide invoices for your claim either upfront with your application or you can choose to do this after you receive approval.

After your application has been approved you can submit invoices for reimbursement via the online link. All invoices must be submitted by Friday 28 January 2022 or before the funding cap is reached and the program is closed, whichever comes first.

Please note: you can only make a single claim under this rebate.

Can I submit my invoices in stages through multiple submissions?

No - only 1 claim is to be submitted per approved application, per eligible ABN. You will need to submit all your invoices in one claim, either with your initial application or after you've received approval. You cannot claim in stages through multiple submissions.

Example 1: *Submitting invoices with initial application*

You are completing your application and have an eligible invoice totalling \$25,000 (GST exclusive). After assessment, your 50% rebate is approved so you receive a single payment of the maximum amount of \$10,000 (GST exclusive).

Example 2: *Submitting invoices after application approved*

You are completing your application and have some eligible invoices but are planning to purchase more zinc phosphide in the coming weeks. Your current eligible invoices total \$4,500 (GST exclusive) and you estimate you will purchase an additional \$1,500 of the chemical. When applying, you estimate your total claim will be \$3,000 [ie \$4,500 + \$1,500 = \$6,000. 50% of \$6,000 = \$3,000]. Your application is assessed and subsequently approved. After purchasing more zinc phosphide, you now have all the invoices required to make your claim and submit a claim online for \$3,000. Once your invoices are validated by the RAA you receive a single payment of \$3,000.



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Can I submit an invoice that has zinc phosphide along with other items eg. Gloves, masks and other mice bait?

Yes. There is no need to have the invoice altered, you can submit the whole invoice but the RAA will only pay the eligible zinc phosphide bait costs.

Can I submit invoices from a non-recognised supplier?

The RAA expects that all valid invoices will be from a recognised supplier of ZnP.

Where this is not the case (for example if the product is bought in bulk as part of a syndicate or group with a corresponding invoice being provided by a farming enterprise), the RAA will request that the original invoice from the recognised source supplier be provided as well as proof of payment to the farming enterprise.

This is to ensure that there is no double claiming of the same product. It is also to ensure that any product on sold from one applicant to another is done so without additional costs included for example the rebate does not cover handling fees or the cost of transporting the product.

What do I do if my initial estimate is less than what I actually spend?

If you are not submitting your invoices with your application, please provide your best estimate of how much you will need to claim.

If once you purchase your zinc phosphide the invoices are higher than you initially estimated, the RAA will reassess your original approval amount.

Is the rebate applied per business or property?

A maximum of \$10,000 will be available per ABN.

If I have multiple properties under the one ABN can I claim more than \$10,000?

No. Only 1 application per ABN will be eligible.

Can I claim for all kinds of mice baits and traps?

No. The rebate is available to assist with some of the costs of buying zinc phosphide mouse bait. Other costs associated with stocking, transporting, application or disposal of mouse baits or rodent related cleaning and cleaning services are not eligible.

You may be eligible to apply for the NSW Mouse control rebate through Service NSW to help with some of the additional costs: www.nsw.gov.au/mice.

How can I demonstrate financial hardship?

You can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of compounding financial strains including the mouse plague, bushfires, floods, drought or the COVID pandemic. This can be confirmed by one or more of the following:

- Increased borrowings for working capital;
- Drawdown of Farm Management Deposits;
- Use of other cash reserves and investments;
- Evidence of Rural Financial Counsellor assistance;
- Successful application of RAA administered programs to support primary producers through drought, bushfires, floods or COVID in the last three years; or
- Other evidence considered on a case by case basis.

Only one of the above criteria needs to be demonstrated. During the assessment of your application an RAA Assessment Officer will call and discuss the impacts and financial hardship in more detail.

Example: When completing your application form you select Increased borrowings for working capital, that is all you need to do for now. Once an RAA Assessment Officer begins assessing your application they will call you to discuss how the mice plague has impacted your business, resulting in the need for increased borrowings for working capital. They may discuss previous financial impacts that have also contributed such as drought, bushfires, floods and/or COVID-19.



I have more than 3 properties but the application form only allows me to enter the details of 3?

You should enter the details of the properties where majority of the baiting will be taking place first. If you require further information please contact the RAA directly on 1800 678 593.

Can I claim if my property is not in one of the listed LGA's but has been impacted by the mouse plague?

No. Only properties in the listed LGA's detailed on the RAA website (www.raa.nsw.gov.au) are eligible to apply.

These LGA's have been determined on the basis that they have been most heavily impacted by the mouse plague

What would be considered as other evidence to show financial hardship?

Other examples could include, but are not limited to:

- Being at the limit of overdrafts and/ or credit cards;
- Recent refinance or debt consolidation of borrowings;
- Being on credit hold with suppliers; or
- Dishonours on bank statements.
- Letter from Agronomist/ Agent (see [template](#) on RAA website)

Is GST included in any payment received?

No. The GST component of any invoice received can be claimed on completion of your Business Activity Statement (BAS). The RAA will NOT issue a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) on payment of the rebate and you should retain the 'Payment Advice' that is forwarded as a record for taxation purposes.

How does the RAA protect itself against fraud?

The RAA has a strong commitment to fraud prevention, detection, and response. Making a fraudulent application, including providing false or misleading information is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment, or a fine of \$22,000, or both.

The RAA will also attempt to recover any assistance received as a result of fraud.

More information can be found on our [Fraud and Corruption](#) page on our website.

Rural Financial Counselling Service

If you are experiencing any issues completing the application form, free confidential assistance is available from your local Rural Financial Counselling Service:

<https://recovery.gov.au/rural-financial-counselling-service>.

Southern Region: 1800 319 458

Northern Region: 1800 344 090

Translations

If you need assistance with interpreting or translating, please contact Multicultural NSW on 1300 651 500 or email languageservices@multicultural.nsw.gov.au.

Rural Assistance Authority (RAA)

If you have any further questions about the NSW Government's Mouse Control Program - Zinc Phosphide Rebate, please contact the RAA on 1800 678 593 or at rural.assis@raa.nsw.gov.au.