

29 April 2024

NSW Sheep and Goat eID Saleyard Infrastructure Grant Scheme Guidelines

1. Purpose and Objective

- 1.1 To provide a second round of funding to eligible saleyards for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of eligible items as part of the implementation of mandatory individual electronic identification (eID) tagging for sheep and farmed goats within NSW.

2. Assistance Available

- 2.1 The NSW Sheep and Goats eID Saleyard Infrastructure Grant (the Grant), provides funding to eligible sheep and farmed goat saleyards to cover the cost of eligible electronic identification (eID) items (ie as listed in Section 5).
- 2.2 Eligible saleyards may apply for a maximum grant amount equating to the difference between their previously approved NSW Sheep and Goat eID infrastructure saleyard rebate scheme application total and the quoted costs provided in their approved Sheep & Goat Electronic Identification – Planning and Design Report Form, or the maximum amount of \$200,000, whichever is less.

Key Information

Applications open	29 April 2024
Applications close	5.00pm, 31 May 2024
Late Applications	In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Department
Decision Maker	Department of Regional NSW - Primary Industries Deputy Director General Agriculture
Type of grant opportunity	Closed, non-competitive eligibility-based grant
Grant Value	Grant value per eligible applicant is limited to a maximum of \$200,000
Outcomes of applications	Within 30 business days
Approved grants must be acquitted by	28 February 2025

3. Funding Sources

3.1 The NSW Department of Primary Industries is the sole contributor to this scheme.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1 To be eligible for this grant, applicants will be assessed against and must meet the following criteria:

- a. your business was previously an applicant under the NSW Sheep and Goat eID Infrastructure Saleyard Rebate Scheme
- b. your quotes submitted as part of your approved Sheep & Goat eID – Planning and Design Report Form was greater than the maximum permissible amount for your saleyard category under the NSW Sheep and Goats eID Infrastructure Saleyard Rebate Scheme
- c. your business operates as a sole trader, partnership, trustee, private company, public entity or council-owned saleyard as per the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- d. you have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- e. you agree that you will not pass on any NLIS scanning service fees to clients using equipment or software purchased as part of the NSW eID rebate and/ or grant schemes
- f. you, and all staff required to support traceability within your business, agree to attend mandatory training and complete an annual assessment up to 1 January 2027
- g. you agree to return a survey or complete a face-to-face interview specific to the implementation of eID infrastructure annually up to 1 January 2027
- h. you agree to a visit by a NSW Department of Primary Industries officer before 1 January 2025, who will complete a full audit to assess any capability gaps and to educate you with any assisted compliance actions required to support traceability.

5. Eligible and Ineligible Items

Eligible items	Ineligible items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• eID readers and reader components• purchase, installation, and training for software connected to sheep and goat eID infrastructure (including software subscriptions up until 1 January 2027 – note that applicants will be expected to pay for software subscriptions after this date)• eID hardware (i.e. computers, laptops, tablets)• connectivity between eID hardware• project planning and design consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• weigh crates/scales• saleyard roofing• wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour costs structural modifications (i.e. pens and races)• auto drafters• eligible items not previously identified or quoted in your approved Planning and Design Report Form

Additional Terms and Conditions

6. Exclusions

- 6.1 You will not be eligible for a grant if your approved quotes submitted in the Sheep & Goat Electronic Identification – Planning and Design Report Form is less than the maximum permissible amount for your saleyard category under the NSW Sheep and Goats eID Infrastructure Saleyard Rebate Scheme.
- 6.2 Ineligible items are listed in Section 5.
-

7. Application Process

- 7.1 Refer to the website link provided by the NSW DPI Sheep and Goat Traceability team to complete an online application. It is not mandatory to expend all funds before applying for the scheme. You can submit an application for funding for works undertaken from 15 December 2022.
- 7.2 An application approval, may be delayed where:
- assistance previously provided by this or any other related NSW government grant or rebate program or scheme cannot be validated or
 - the outcome of relevant legal or validation actions may impact the decision to grant further assistance.

Support to aid completion of an online application can be found on the RAA website.

You will need to complete an online application by the closing dates shown in Section 2.

If you need assistance with submitting your application, please contact us:

Phone: 1800 678 593

Email: rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au

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

In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Department.

Please do not self-assess your eligibility for this grant. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the RAA on free call 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

8. Assessment and Decision Makers

- 8.1 The Deputy Director General of NSW DPI Agriculture is the decision maker and is responsible for ensuring the program is administered in accordance with these guidelines and the Purpose and Objective outlined under 1.1.
- 8.2 RAA Assessment Officers will assess applications against the eligibility criteria in these guidelines and recommend assessment outcomes to DPI.
- a. The RAA reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged to assist in assessment of your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in your application not being supported.
 - b. The RAA reserves the right to not support an application where eligibility criteria are not met or where you do not or cannot provide sufficient information for NSW RAA to determine if eligibility criteria have been met.
 - c. The RAA can put an application on hold where the applicant is under investigation or has been charged in relation to the fraudulent receipt of grants or rebates under this or other NSW Government programs or schemes.
 - d. Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.
 - e. Applicants should note that past financial assistance under this scheme or any other program or scheme is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this scheme.
- 8.3 DPI will brief the decision maker and the decision maker will make the decision. The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including:
- a. the approval to award a grant
 - b. the amount awarded
 - c. the terms and conditions of the grant.
 - d. there is no appeal mechanism from the decision-maker's decisions.
- 8.4 RAA Program Officers will execute the decision of the decision maker.
- a. Successful applicants will receive a letter of conditional offer and unsuccessful applicants will receive a letter of refusal.
 - b. Successful applicants may be required to sign confidentiality undertakings, promising to keep the outcome of the application process confidential until the NSW Government makes a public announcement.
 - c. Successful applicants will be required to sign funding deeds with the Department. A sample funding deed is available on the RAA website.
- 8.5 Applications submitted may be subject to audit by the Department or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines. You must permit the DPI or another person authorised by the DPI to enter the property to undertake this audit and inspect the works.

9. Claiming

- 9.1 This process applies to successful applicants only.
- 9.2 After funding deeds are executed, the Department will not consider requests for variations to projects.
- 9.3 The RAA will pay grants in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement
- 9.4 You must exhaust all funding under the Sheep and Goats eID Infrastructure Saleyard Rebate Scheme prior to payment being made under this Grant.
- 9.5 The grant will be made as a lump sum payment and will equate to the difference between your previously approved NSW Sheep and Goat eID infrastructure saleyard rebate scheme application total and the quoted costs provided in your approved Sheep & Goat Electronic Identification – Planning and Design Report Form (or the amount of \$200,000) - whichever is less.

10. Fraudulent Claims

- 10.1 The RAA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be assessed and investigated as appropriate, which may require the involvement of external parties such as the NSW Police Force or the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).
- 10.2 Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of the *Rural Assistance Act 1989* (NSW) or criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.
- 10.3 The RAA responds to fraud by:
 - a. audit and site validation of applications and claims that are of concern
 - b. referral to the NSW Police Force or ICAC of suspected fraud
 - c. recovery of any assistance provided under a fraudulent application.
- 10.4 A payment of the approved Grant, may be delayed where:
 - a. assistance previously provided by this or any other related NSW government grant or rebate program or scheme cannot be validated or
 - b. the outcome of relevant legal or validation actions may impact the decision to grant further assistance.

11. Important Information

- 11.1 These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.
- 11.2 The RAA reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website prior to submitting an application and or making a claim.
- 11.3 Without limiting any rights, the RAA (or another NSW agency), in its sole discretion, may recover funds from the claimant and determine that a debt is due if evidence indicates that the claimant:
 - a. did not meet the eligibility criteria
 - b. received an overpayment of the grant.

11.4 The Grants Administration Guide (Guide) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect (see section 6.5 of the Guide and Appendix A to the Guide). This information is also open access information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

12. Evaluation

12.1 The RAA is committed to providing excellent service that responds to *your* needs through well-targeted programs. For that reason, the RAA evaluates its programs. This includes surveys at various points of *your* application, *approval* and completion. The RAA may also contact *you* to ask about *your* experience of the assistance *you* received. The RAA will always treat the responses *you* provide as confidential and use the information only for the purposes it was collected.

13. Government Information (Public Access) Act

13.1 Applicants should be aware information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW). Information that is deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.

13.2 The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) makes government information accessible to the public by:

- a. requiring government agencies to make certain sorts of information freely available
- b. encouraging government agencies to release as much other information as possible
- c. giving the public an enforceable right to make access applications for government information
- d. restricting access to information only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

14. Complaints

Any concerns about the NSW Sheep and Goats eID Saleyard Infrastructure Grant should be submitted in writing to sheepgoateid@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the Department of Primary Industries has handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.

15. Definitions

Approval: your application will be approved based on your eligibility with the criteria listed in [Section 5](#). Your invoices will be approved based on their eligibility with the criteria listed in [Section 6](#).

Farmed goat: any breed or type of goat that is not a harvested rangeland goat, which is managed or semi-managed on a property and is subject to animal husbandry procedures and managed breeding programs.

Mandatory individual electronic identification (eID) tagging:

- a. sheep or farmed goats must be identified with an approved electronic NLIS device that was assigned for use on that property before they leave their property of birth, or
- b. sheep or farmed goats must either be carrying an approved electronic NLIS device attached by an earlier owner or an approved electronic NLIS post-breeder device that is assigned for use on the property from which they will be dispatched before leaving a property that is not their property of birth.

Assessor(s): Person(s) responsible for ensuring grants are administered in accordance with approved criteria. For the purposes of this grant program RAA Assessment Officers and RAA Program Officers are considered assessors.

You and your: in the context of these guidelines and the related application process refers to the applicant. The RAA assumes that the person who signs the application form is authorised to act on behalf of the applicant.

16. Disclaimer

The Department does not guarantee or warrant and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained in this publication. Information in this publication is provided as general information only and is not intended as a substitute for advice from a qualified professional.

The Department recommends that users exercise care and use their own skill and judgment in using information from this publication and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness, and relevance of such information. Users should take steps to independently verify the information in this publication and, where appropriate, seek professional advice.

Funding assistance provided through the scheme is subject to funds being available.

In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Department.

These guidelines are subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of the Department.

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2024. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2024). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.