

Guidelines

1. Objective

To provide a subsidy on the transport of fodder and/or water to a property, stock to/from agistment and stock to sale or slaughter following a declared Natural Disaster event.

Note: Drought is no longer a declared natural disaster

2. Assistance Available

A subsidy of up to 50% of the total freight cost to a maximum of \$15,000 per farm enterprise per financial year is available to eligible primary producers.

Subsidies are only available during the six month period following the declaration of a natural disaster area with the first movement to take place during the first 3 months of the declaration period. Claims may be submitted no more than six months after the first movement.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for assistance primary producers must:

- Have a right or interest in the land used for the purpose of a farm enterprise.
Note: Eligible primary producers can be individuals, partnerships, trusts or companies, operating commercially.
- Be registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a primary producer, and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Have their primary production business located within an eligible area as defined in the list of Declared Natural Disasters available on the NSW Rural Assistance Authority website.

4. Eligible Costs

- Transport of fodder for stock (including bees) to properties.
- Transporting of stock (including bees) to agistment.
- Returning stock (including bees) from agistment.
- Transport of stock to sale or slaughter.
- Transport of domestic water.
- Transport of stock drinking water

5. General Criteria

- Subsidy will be paid for road transport at a rate of 50% of the total amount paid to the carrier or costs for an owner driver. If the transport rates are considered excessive subsidy paid is 50% of the approved ruling rate schedule. However, the transport of fodder to dairy cattle attracts a subsidy of 25%.
- Initial claims must be submitted no more than 6 months after the first movement, with the first movement to take place within the first 3 months of a Natural Disaster declaration.

- Completed claim forms together with certified copies of invoices, receipts (evidence of purchase) and confirmation of agistment and/or stock to sale or slaughter attached are to be submitted
- Subsidy on the transport of fodder applies for the cartage of emergency fodder to the primary producer's home property affected by declared natural disaster. The subsidy is available from the point of purchase to the affected property.
- Subsidy applies to the loaded portion of the journey only.
- Subsidy applies on the cartage of fodder/water from the closest practical available source.
- The amount to be paid is the GST exclusive amount.
- Applicants must provide confirmation that the removal of livestock is due to animal welfare issues and/or to avoid land degradation as a direct result of the disaster event.

Note: Subsidy is not to be used for the movement of stock that are not fit to travel. Stock owners must always comply with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.

- Confirmation is to be provided that at least 30% of grazing area (foraging area for bees) of the property has been affected by the disaster event.
- Costs of transportation must be paid prior to lodging a claim for the rebate. Proof of payment must be provided with the application form. Payment of any assistance can only occur upon production of tax invoices for expense incurred.
- If an ABN is not supplied, the rebate will be reduced by an amount equivalent to the highest tax rate, which is subsequently forwarded to the Australian Taxation Office.
- There are also restrictions on the amount that owner carriers can claim per kilometre per transportation as per the following ruling rate schedule:

Gross vehicle mass (T) and/ or Gross combined vehicle mass (T)	Amount per kilometre
< 2.5	\$1.00
< 4.5	\$1.40
< 6.5	\$1.80
< 8.5	\$2.00
< 10.5	\$2.20
< 12.5	\$2.35
< 14.5	\$2.55
< 15.5	\$2.65
< 22.5	\$3.00
< 27.5	\$3.40
< 42.5	\$4.00
> 42.5	\$5.00

Owner carriers will be assessed on a case by case basis. Distance rates for owner carriers are indicative rates based on commercial transport costs, but are calculated not to include the cost of the applicant's time, labour or margin for profit.

6. Stock to and from Agistment

- Subsidy is available for the forward and return journeys.
- Subsidy is not to be used for the transport of stock that are not fit to travel. Stock owners must always comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.
- Subsidy is also available for transport of stock from one area of agistment to another, if the owner is forced to move the stock off the agistment property as a result of the natural disaster.
- If the owner is forced to move stock off the agistment property additional claims will be considered on a case by case basis.
- The stockowner must have no prior arrangement/agreement or contract to sell or otherwise dispose of the stock to the owner of the agistment property.
- Stock consigned to a custom or commercial feedlot on maintenance rations may be eligible for transport subsidies to and from the feedlot.
- The minimum load must be equivalent to 70 dry sheep equivalents (DSE). Loads of less than 70 DSE will be assessed on a case by case basis (e.g. transporting bulls).
- Commercial feedlots are not eligible for the rebate.
- A maximum distance of 1,500 km applies.

7. Stock to Sale or Slaughter

- Subsidy is available for the transport of stock from a disaster affected property to sale or slaughter.
- Subsidy is not to be used for the transport of stock that are not fit to travel. Stock owners must always comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.
- The minimum load must be equivalent to 70 dry sheep equivalents (DSE). Loads of less than 70 DSE will be assessed on a case by case basis (e.g. transporting bulls).
- Commercial feedlots are not eligible for the rebate.
- A maximum distance of 1,500 km applies.

8. Fodder

- Subsidy is payable on transport costs related to fodder movement following a declared Natural Disaster. The movement must be to a landholder's property, a travelling stock reserve, leased or agisted property.
- Fodder must only be obtained for the feeding of disaster affected stock. The amount purchased per order must only be for a maximum three (3) month feed period for the stock on hand and not for long term storage purposes.

- Subsidy is payable for genuine smaller vehicle movements within a property, where the initial vehicle transporting the fodder to the property is too large to transport the fodder to the appropriate storage location on the property. In these situations the owner must sign a statutory declaration to this effect.
- Minimum load of fodder is 1 tonne. Loads of less than 1 tonne may be assessed on a case by case basis if eligible. If eligible, loads between 500-999 kg are paid at a rate of 25% of the transport cost. Loads below 500 kg are ineligible.
- Subsidy will be paid for 25% of the transport cost for supplements, including liquid supplements, where the load is at least 500kg. Loads below 500 kg are ineligible.
- Subsidy will be paid for 25% of the transport cost for dairy cattle.
- Transport of fodder for stock consigned to a commercial feedlot on maintenance rations may be eligible for rebates.
- Producers who purchase fodder from a commercial feed supplier or processor are eligible to claim 50% of the transport cost for feed ingredients as well as transport of the feed from the supplier to the holding.
- Commercial feedlots, where stock are purchased, fattened and sold; and backgrounding, where stock are fattened prior to moving into a feedlot, are ineligible.
- Commercial feed processors are not eligible for transport subsidies.
- A maximum distance of 1,500 km applies.

9. Domestic Water

- Subsidy for the transport of water is only available if water is carted from the nearest practicable source.
- Minimum movement:
 - \geq 1,000L per transportation
- Maximum movement:
 - 1,000L per household per day.
- A maximum distance of 500 km applies.
- The transport of water within a holding will be subsidised as long as the roundtrip distance is 15km or greater.
- Subsidies for the transport of domestic water may be paid to LLS ratepayers or persons who rent/lease a house on LLS rated land.

10. Stock Drinking Water (including bees)

- Subsidy for the transport of water is only available if the water is carted from the nearest practicable source.
- Transport of water within a holding is eligible for subsidy as long as the roundtrip distance is 15km or greater to a suitable storage facility that minimises evaporation.
- Transport subsidies will not be paid for the transport of water for irrigation.
- Minimum movement (bees):

- \geq 1,000L per transportation
- Minimum movement (all other stock):
- \geq 1,000L per transportation
- Water cartage to stock on a travelling stock reserve or agistment property is eligible for subsidy.
- Intensive piggeries, feedlots and poultry farms are not eligible for assistance.
- The maximum distance for a single journey on which a subsidy will be paid for the transport of stock drinking water is 500km.

11. Bees

- Claimants must sign a statutory declaration that the movement of beehives is abnormal to their usual management practices and is entirely as a result of the declared natural disaster event.
- With regard to bee food, if the movement is undertaken by the owner receipts for the purchase of the bee food are to provided with the claim.
- For Crown Land a copy of the apiary site arrangement or nectar licence for the site that has been disaster affected must accompany each claim.
- Where the site is on private land a statement from the property owner that the land is disaster affected must accompany each claim.
- The movement of beehives to another site is a one way journey only. A rebate for movement of the hives to a third site will be provided if it can be demonstrated that this movement was not part of the beekeepers usual practices and is as a result of there being a shortage of feed at the second site.
- Subsidy will not be provided to move the hives back to the original site.
- Subsidy will not be paid for the transport of bee foods for loads of less than 500kg.
- Honey producers must obtain bee foods from the nearest practicable source to the bees.
- For bee food the movement may be from the location where purchased to the new site where the bees are located.
- If the beekeeper is mixing their own food from purchased ingredients the rebate will apply to the transport of the ingredients from the place of purchase to where the beekeeper is mixing the food. If this is not where the bees are located the rebate will also apply for the transport of the mixed food to the site where the bees are located.

12. To apply

Applications and claim forms can be submitted by email, post, fax or in person. Applications and claim forms that have been emailed can be tracked most efficiently.

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

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

Fax: 02 6391 3098

In Person: 161 Kite St, Orange NSW 2800

13. Fraudulent claims

By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate. Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply. If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the subsidy.