

# Special Disaster Grant NSW Storms & Floods

## Case Study Examples

*Please find in the following document a series of case studies followed by industry specific examples. Note that these are examples only, and an applicant could use funds for a range of other activities and expenses.*

*Please contact the Rural Assistance Authority if you are unsure about what you can claim.*

## Case Study 1 – Claiming \$15,000 in damages

Mr and Mrs Jones are cattle farmers.

On 15 March 2021, their property sustained minor damage to fences along the riverbank. Based on their own estimates of likely costs, they are submitting an application for \$15,000 under the Special Disaster Grant - Storms & Floods.

The Jones are yet to pay for any clean-up costs and therefore don't have to attach any quotes or invoices to their application.

RAA uses satellite photos to verify the damage to the Jones' property and the application is approved as they meet all the other eligibility criteria.

The payment of \$15,000 is paid into their bank account upon approval of the application.

**Summary:** The Jones do not need to supply any confirmation of proof of payment as they do not require assistance greater than \$15,001. However, the Jones know they need to keep records of proof of payment should they be audited by the RAA on behalf of the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

## Case Study 2 – Claiming for \$75,000 in damages

Mr. & Mrs. Smith are orchardists.

Their property was significantly damaged by floods which impacted their property over three days from 15 March.

They have assessed the damage and submit an application for \$75,000 under the Special Disaster Grant on 6 April.

Mr. & Mrs. Smith are also yet to pay for any clean-up costs and therefore they don't need to send any invoices with their application.

Mr. & Mrs. Smith's application is approved on 15 April as they meet the eligibility criteria, and the payment of \$15,000 is paid on that day.

Two weeks pass by and Mr. & Mrs. Smith have spent the initial \$15,000 paid under the grant. In addition, they have also spent another \$10,000 on clean-up costs.

To receive their next payments under the approved grant they submit a copy of the invoices/receipts for the initial payment of \$15,000 received on 15 April, as well as the extra \$10,000 in receipts/invoices that they have already paid.

These invoices can be submitted via this [LINK](#).

Once the RAA reviews the proof of payment provided by the Smiths the next payment of \$10,000 will be made.

As Mr and Mrs Smith continue to incur costs associated with the clean-up and recovery of their primary production business, they can submit proof of payment following the above steps and the RAA will reimburse payment up to the maximum amount of \$75,000.

**Summary:** The Smiths have provided receipts for all the clean-up work they undertook up to the value of \$75,000. Although they do not need to keep these invoices or receipts, as RAA has copies, they know at some point they may be asked to demonstrate the costs were necessary for the clean-up resulting from the floods which occurred from 10 March 2021.

## Turf Farming – eligibility

Bob Green is a turf farmer who lost a years' income when his farm was inundated by the floods of 2021.

Bob would like to use the Special Disaster Grant (Storms & Floods) to help clean up his damaged farm and sow a new crop.

He wants to know, is he eligible, and what can he use the funds for?

- Is Bob in a Local Government Area that was declared as a natural disaster? **(YES)**
- Does Bob's business earn more than 50% of its gross income from turf farming? **(YES)**
- Is turf farming regarded as primary production under the ANZSIC code? **(YES)**

Bob may be eligible for the Special Disaster Grant (Storms & Floods), and will be able to use the funds to:

- Clean up the damaged turf
- Buy new turf seed or runners
- Pay for fuel of the re-planting machines
- Pay for labour for re-planting expenses
- Pay for replacement or repair of any equipment that was damaged through the floods

## Oyster Farming – eligibility

The Brown's oyster farm was impacted by the floods of March 2021.

They lost juvenile and mature stock and oyster farming infrastructure, and oyster sheds were damaged together with equipment including a forklift and a grading machine. Equipment was also lost from the sheds including trays and baskets.

The Browns want to know if the Special Disaster Grant (Storms & Floods) can help them get back on their feet.

- Are the Sims in a Local Government Area that was declared a natural disaster? **(YES)**
- Does the Sims' business earn more than 50% of its gross income from oyster production? **(YES)**
- Is oyster farming regarded as primary production under the ANZSIC code? **(YES)**

The Browns may be eligible for the Special Disaster Grant (Storms & Floods), and can use the funds toward a range of expenses, including but not limited to:

- Engagement of contractors to help with clean up
- Payment of wages above normal wage expenditure
- Clean-up of damaged oyster leases
- Repairing the forklift
- Contributing to the cost of a new grading machine
- Paying for labour for clean-up and repairs
- Purchase of new spat
- Purchase of lost oyster farming infrastructure

## Oyster Farmer – claiming payments

John Smith is an oyster farmer on the NSW coast. His oyster farm was heavily impacted by the storms and floods that occurred from 10 March 2021.

John assessed the damage and applied for \$75,000 under the Special Disaster Grant and was approved as he met the eligibility criteria.

Under the guidelines, upfront payment of up to \$15,000 is payable upon approval of application without provision of invoices by the applicant. So, \$15,000 is paid to John immediately.

John spends the initial \$15,000 of his grant on clean-up costs and keeps all receipts and invoices as proof of payment.

Further payments under the grant are a reimbursement of costs incurred, so John will continue to pay for clean-up, salvaging and replacement costs – keeping all receipts and invoices for proof of payment to claim for reimbursement.

To access additional approved funding, John must first supply all receipts (or Bank statement) and invoices for the first \$15,000 he received. Then he must supply additional receipts and invoices for expenses he has incurred over and above that initial grant payment.

John can supply these additional invoices individually as they are incurred, or in larger lump sums, for example:

1. \$150 receipt from Bunnings for cleaning supplies
2. \$2,000 worth of receipts and invoices for a mix of costs (i.e., contractors, equipment, etc.)
3. \$18,000 receipt for replacement spat

Each time John submits invoices and receipts to the RAA, the team will review the proof of payment provided and continue to reimburse payment to the value of the receipts received up to the approved amount of \$75,000.

These invoices can be submitted via this [LINK](#).

**Summary:** John Smith has provided receipts for all the clean-up work and replacement costs they incurred up to the value of \$75,000. Although they don't need to keep these invoices or receipts, as RAA has copies, they know at some point they may be asked to demonstrate the costs were necessary for the clean-up resulting from the floods which occurred from 10 March 2021.

## Dairy Farmer – claiming payments

Jane Hill is a dairy whose property and dairy was heavily impacted by the storms and floods that occurred from 10 March 2021.

Jane assessed the damage and applied for \$75,000 under the Special Disaster Grant and was approved as she met the eligibility criteria.

Under the guidelines, upfront payment of up to \$15,000 is payable upon approval of application without provision of invoices by the applicant. So, \$15,000 is paid to Jane immediately.

Jane spends the initial \$15,000 of her grant on fodder to feed her cattle as most of the feed on her farm was destroyed by floodwaters. She kept the invoices as proof of payment.

Further payments under the grant are a reimbursement of costs incurred, so Jane will continue to pay for clean-up, salvaging and replacement costs – keeping all receipts and invoices for proof of payment to claim for reimbursement.

To access additional approved funding, Jane must first supply all receipts (or Bank statement) and invoices for the first \$15,000 she received. Then she must supply additional receipts and invoices for expenses she has incurred over and above that initial grant payment.

Jane can supply these additional invoices individually as they are incurred, or in larger lump sums, for example:

1. \$6,500 invoice for parts and repairs to the tractor
2. \$11,000 worth of receipts and invoices for a mix of costs (i.e., contractors, equipment, etc.)

Each time Jane submits invoices and receipts to the RAA, the team will review the proof of payment provided and continue to reimburse payment to the value of the receipts received up to the approved amount of \$75,000.

These invoices can be submitted via this [LINK](#).

**Summary:** Jane Hill has provided receipts for all the clean-up work and replacement costs she incurred up to the value of \$75,000. Although she doesn't need to keep these invoices or receipts, as RAA has copies, she knows at some point she may be asked to demonstrate the costs were necessary for the clean-up resulting from the floods which occurred from 10 March 2021.