



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Rural
Assistance
Authority

Commonwealth & NSW Government's Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate

Frequently Asked Questions

This project is delivered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the NSW Government.

What is the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme Round 2?

The rebate provides one-off funding to eligible primary producers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs, permanent planting needs and improves resilience to drought.

Who can apply for the rebate?

The rebate is available to eligible property owners, sharefarmers or lessees in the grazing industry, and horticulturalists with permanent plantings. Approved applicants can access a 25 per cent rebate, up to a cap of \$25,000, on purchases and installation costs of water infrastructure.

To view the specific eligibility criteria for **graziers** and **horticulturalists** see Section 3 of the [program guidelines](#).

I received funding under Round 1 can I apply for Round 2?

Yes – if you applied for Round 1 and received funding you may still be eligible for funding under Round 2. To apply for Round 2 of the scheme you must follow the application process and eligibility will be determined upon assessment of your application.

Can I still submit additional invoices for Round 1?

If you are still completing the project that you started in Round 1 and for which you were approved, you can submit invoices and complete that project, up to the cap for which you applied. If you undertake a new project however, you should apply under Round 2.

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

Yes, applications can be completed online using quotations. If your application is approved, you will need to submit eligible tax invoices before the closing date.

What information do I need to provide with my application?

Applicants must complete an online application and upload the following

- LLS Rates notice for properties where works will be
- Land and Stock Return notices or alternative, for all properties where works will be completed
- Lease Agreement (If applicable)
- Tax invoices or quotes for works to be completed
- Tax Returns and Financial statements for 20/21 or 19/20 Financial Years.

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

You can provide permission for the NSW RAA to contact your accountant directly to obtain them.

Do I need to provide financial statements if I am an existing RAA customer?

If you have previously submitted tax returns to the NSW RAA for the financial year 2019/2020 or more recently, you will not need to provide further information.

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 water infrastructure works will be taking place. If you require further information please contact the RAA direct on 1800 678 593



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What if I don't have a current Annual Land & Stock Return notice?

Local Land Services can send you a copy of your Land and Stock Return if you did not retain a copy. Request a copy from LLS on 1300 795 299. If you don't have a current ALSR notice, an assessment officer will contact you to discuss to discuss alternatives.

This document is important to verify the holding of livestock.

I submitted the Land and Stock Return online and don't have a hard copy to attach. Do I need to include this in my application?

Yes, this is required. Local Land Services can send you a copy of your Land and Stock Return if you did not retain a copy. Request a copy from LLS on 1300 795 299.

This document is important to verify the holding of livestock.

What if I haven't been in business long enough for my business to achieve 50% production yet?

The RAA will review your situation and financial statements and determine your eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

As the owner and operator, you earn more than 50% of your gross income from your primary production enterprise under normal seasonal circumstances; OR You are classified as a "new entrant", meaning that you have been operating your farm business for between 12 months to three years and more than 50% of your gross income will be derived from the farm business within three years of the date of the application. The applications of new entrants will be considered on a case by case basis.

A cash flow forecast and / or a business plan may be required to substantiate your application.

What can I apply for?

If you're a grazier (ie. You have sheep, cattle or other grazing animals and can demonstrate that), you can apply for the following:

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- Water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering.
- Water pumps.
- De-silting dams, drilling of new stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators.
- Construction of new dams for stock use only, noting that all required work approvals and environmental permits must be obtained prior to commencing work.
- Repair or improvement of existing stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators.
- Solar systems support water infrastructure.
- Other materials or equipment necessary to install the above excluding purchase of machinery.
- Freight components to purchase and install the equipment outlined

If you're a horticulturalist with permanent plantings that purchased infrastructure after 30 June 2019 you can use the subsidy for:

- New horticulture groundwater bores;
- Desilting dams.

Can I build a new dam?

Yes, if you're a grazier and you can demonstrate that all required work approvals and environmental permits were obtained before you started work. It should be noted that all claims and invoices must be submitted before the program closing date.



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What is a permanent Planting?

Crops that are productive for many seasons rather than being planted after every harvest. Such crops might include: pome and stone fruit, vines, figs, kiwi, berry bushes and shrubs (eg. Raspberries, gooseberries, elderberries) nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts,) other permanent crops (asparagus, artichokes, hops, cuts roses).

It does not include production of Annual flowering plants. Applications for Biennial flower production will be assessed on a case by case basis and may involve industry expert assistance.

The guidelines say I can't use invoices from EWIR with any other NSW State Government scheme.

Invoices for this application may not be used to secure any other NSW Government grant Funding (i.e rebate, subsidy or grant) however they can be utilised to obtaining funding through loan schemes, like the Farm Innovation Fund loan.

The intention of this clause in the guidelines is to ensure that all applicants have a chance of receiving assistance once, for any item for which they are claiming.

Can I claim for repairs to infrastructure for existing equipment?

The repair of existing equipment is allowed and encouraged under this program.

Can I claim for purchase of second-hand equipment or is it only for 'new' infrastructure?

'New' can include the purchase of high-quality secondhand items provided a valid tax invoice is submitted with your claim.

How do I claim expenses where I use my own machinery or equipment?

If you wish to claim expenses incurred from own equipment or machinery, you will need to provide proof of ownership and a full log book including dates, hours of use and litres of fuel, and invoices for any fuel being claimed.

What if I have a combination of invoices and quotes for my project?

You will need to submit both your invoices and quotes during the online application process. If you do not yet have a quote for a larger project and you would like to submit an application for pre-approval, you will either need to submit your application with the invoices incurred to date only, or wait until you have received a quote for the planned works.

All relevant invoice and quotation documents are required to ensure the full amount of your project is considered during the assessment of your application. If you do not provide a quote, your application will be assessed based on the invoices supplied and if approved, it will be for the amount shown on received documents only.

If you then wish to claim for the planned works once you've obtained a quote, you will be required to complete a new application to claim the additional expenses. Once notified of approval, you will then have until the closure of the program to provide the relevant tax invoice to claim for the works approved for funding under the rebate.

Applicants may submit multiple applications up to a total value of \$25,000 per eligible farm business.





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When do I need to have my application and Invoices submitted?

A closing date for applications is to be confirmed. However, closure of the program is at the discretion of the RAA and you are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

You will be notified by the assessment team if your application has been approved. You will need to supply all invoices before the closure of the program.

If you are encountering errors with the online application form please see below for troubleshooting.

The online application form is limited to files of 25mb. You may encounter an error when trying to submit an application that exceeds this limit.

If this occurs, please attempt these trouble shooting ideas:

- Ensure file sizes are smaller than 2mb each.
- Attach the required documentation to the corresponding fields, eg. LLS rates notices uploaded to the property information field.
- Separate invoices into individual files to upload to the invoice details field separately (not all in one document as one large file)
- Limit the upload of invoices to 1 or 2 and submit a claim request with the remaining invoices. This will ensure the documents required for assessment are received with the application whilst still allowing submission of all invoices.
- Organise for your accountant to email your financial documents directly to the RAA with your case number, received upon submission of application.

If you continue to experience issues submitting your application, please call us on 1800 678 593 or contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor for support.

How do I lodge a claim request for additional invoices?

Additional invoices sent via email are unable to be accepted - all invoices must be submitted via the online form to be processed.

If you would like to add additional invoices to your applications please use the [Claim Online Now](#) link available on the website.

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.





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Rural Financial Councillng Service

If you are experiencing any issues completing the application form, free confidential assistance is available from your local Rural Financial Councillng 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 Commonwealth and NSW Government's Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Round 2 please contact the RAA on 1800 678 593 or at rural.assis@raa.nsw.gov.au.