

1. Objective

To provide a subsidy for primary producers on the transport of stock to sale or slaughter for animal welfare reasons.

2. Assistance available

A subsidy of up to 50% of the total freight cost to a maximum of \$20,000 per farm enterprise per financial year is available to eligible primary producers.

Claims may be submitted no more than six months after movement of the stock.

3. General guidelines

A subsidy is permanently available where:-

- a) Animals are at significant risk in terms of animal welfare;
- b) There is little or no feed and/or water available. (This includes both pasture and stored fodder);
- c) Animals leave the farming enterprise permanently; and
- d) The enterprise demonstrates a significant financial need.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance you must demonstrate that:

- a) You are the owner and/ or operator (eg. lessee) of a farm business in NSW.
- b) The business operates as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company and trades agricultural products.
- c) You are claiming in relation to farmed animals appearing on the most recent Land & Stock Return.
- d) The business is registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a primary producer, and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- e) The owners and operators of the business earn more than 50% of gross income from the primary production enterprise under normal seasonal conditions.
- f) You can provide confirmation that you are in financial need by either being in receipt of a Farm Household Allowance (FHA) or being an eligible client of the Rural Financial Counselling (RFC) service.

- g) You can provide proof of payment with the claim form.

5. Animal welfare provisions

- a) The claimant must provide confirmation that the removal of livestock is necessary for reasons of animal welfare. Animals must be at a Fat Score 2 or below, except dairy cattle where the Body Score must be 3 or below.
- b) The claimant must obtain verification of an animal's fat score, at, or before, the point of sale or slaughter. Verification can be provided by the abattoir, by a stock and station agent, or by a veterinarian.
- c) Can confirm that the transport of stock from the property is for sale or slaughter.
- d) Stock must be transported to the nearest available sale yard or abattoir.
- e) The 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. In determining whether stock are fit to travel, primary producers should refer to the Department of Primary Industries' ['Welfare Scoring'](#) and the Meat and Livestock [Association's 'Is it Fit to Load'](#)

6. Exclusions

- a) Transport of fodder for stock (including bees) to drought affected properties.
- b) Transport of domestic water to drought affected properties.
- c) Transport of drinking water for stock (including bees) to drought affected properties.
- d) Transport of stock to or from agistment.
- e) Commercial feedlots are not eligible for the subsidy.

7. Payment and transport provisions

- a) Payment of assistance can only occur upon production of tax invoices for transport expenses incurred.
- b) Tax invoices from stock and station agent/ saleyards/ abattoir must also be provided and can include fat score details.

- c) Claims must be made within six months of the movement of stock.
- d) 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.
- e) The 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 transport rates are considered excessive, the cost will be determined at 50% of the maximum rate for transport as outlined in Table 1 below.
- f) In the case of an owner/ driver, payment will be provided in line with the km rate table below. A copy of the registration certificate for the vehicle used to transport must be provided.

Table 1: Maximum kilometre rate for transport

| 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 |

- g) The amount to be paid is the GST exclusive amount.
- h) The subsidy is available only for the loaded portion of journeys.

8. Fraudulent claims

- a) By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application

form and supporting documentation is true and accurate.

- b) Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.
- c) 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 funds.

9. Important information

- a) Guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.
- b) RAA reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website prior to application.
- c) The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by RAA.
- d) While RAA has taken all care in preparing these guidelines, RAA will not be liable in any way for any errors, omissions or variation to information in these guidelines or for not advising an applicant of any errors, omissions or variations to information in these guidelines.

10. Assessment

- a) Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. RAA reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application.
- b) Failure to provide such information may result in RAA refusing your application.
- c) RAA also reserves the right to refuse an application, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.
- d) Applications submitted may be subject to audit by RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

11. Applications

Applications for assistance under the program must be made on RAA's application form and be accompanied by the documentation stated in the application form.

Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

Applicants should note that past financial assistance under this program or any other program is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this program.

Before applying for financial assistance under this program or making any decision, applicants should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine their eligibility for and the terms of the financial assistance.

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

The sale or slaughter of livestock in situations of animal welfare can be distressing.

Farmers and their families are encouraged to seek help from their local General Practitioner or from the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 in times of difficulty.