

1. Objectives

To provide funding for one-off rebates to eligible primary producers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs and improves resilience to drought.

2. Assistance Available

The rebate is 25 per cent of the cost of purchase, delivery and if applicable, the labour cost to engage a person to install water infrastructure for animal welfare needs. The maximum that can be claimed is \$25,000 per farm enterprise.

The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. No rebates will be offered beyond the allocated funding of \$12 million. The scheme will close on 30 June 2021 or when the funding allocation is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

3. Eligibility

To apply for this rebate the following conditions must be met:

- a) You are a property owner, share-farmer or lessee in the grazing industry (as confirmed by your Land and Stock Return);
- b) Your business operates as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company and trades agricultural products;
- c) Your property has, or is at risk of, an emergency animal welfare need - as assessed through submission of a completed water availability statement with your application;
- d) As the owner and operator, you earn more than 50% of your gross income from your primary production enterprise under normal seasonal circumstances; OR

The owners and operators of the business have commenced their farming operation between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2018 and 50% of their 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.

- e) You do not have gross off farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000;
- f) You purchase and install the water infrastructure for animal welfare needs, because;
 - water is currently being carted or about to be carted onto your property to supply livestock where water supply has run out; or

- your property could be reasonably expected to run out of water before the next expected inflow of water; or
- the work will help ensure that stock water is available into the future during adverse seasonal conditions.

- g) The water infrastructure is installed for livestock permanently residing on your property and not currently part of an agistment;
- h) Primary Producers will be eligible to apply through the NSW government for the rebates which will also cover eligible expenses incurred since 1 July 2018;
- i) Introduction of purchased stock after 1 July 2018 may affect your eligibility and will be reviewed on a case by case basis;
- j) As a Commonwealth fund, recipients of NSW Drought Assistance Fund and Farm Innovation Fund are eligible to apply for water infrastructure projects funded from 1 July 2018.
- k) For invoices dated from 1 July 2019, horticulturalists with permanent plantings can apply for new bores and dam de-silting activities.

4. Eligible Activities

This rebate applies to the purchase and installation of emergency water infrastructure for livestock including:

- a) Pipes;
- b) Water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering;
- c) Water pumps;
- d) De-silting works of existing dams;
- e) Drilling of new stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators;
- f) Other materials or equipment necessary to install the above excluding purchase of machinery;
- g) Any freight component to purchase and install the equipment;
- h) The professional installation costs to install the water infrastructure.
- i) Horticulturalists with permanent plantings can apply for a rebate for new bores and dam de-silting activities, for invoices from 1 July 2019.

5. Ineligible Activities

- a) Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed where there is not an emergency animal need or the potential for this need, aside from horticulturalists with permanent plantings;
- b) Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock, aside from horticulturalists with permanent plantings
- c) Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour costs.
- d) Construction of dams.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

Apply Online:

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate-scheme/apply-online>

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

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

In Person: 161 Kite St, Orange NSW 2800