



Horticultural Netting Program - trial

Objective:

To assist horticultural primary producers to increase resilience by reducing exposure to crop damage through the purchase and installation of netting over existing horticulture crops.

Assistance available

Up to 50 per cent of the cost to purchase and to have a third-party install new permanent netting and/or drape-netting/throw-over netting, up to a maximum of \$100,000 (excluding GST), for eligible activities undertaken from 14 December 2021.

More than one application can be submitted, but the total value of grants to any horticultural enterprise with an Australian Business Number (ABN) will not exceed \$100,000 (excluding GST).

The application close date and invoice claim close date are given on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

The program has limited fixed funding and the program will close when all funding has been allocated. You should visit the RAA website on a regular basis for the latest information regarding the close dates.

Eligibility criteria

You must:

- a) be a [primary producer](#)
- b) draw at least 50% of your gross income from your horticultural [primary production enterprise](#)
- c) contribute a part of your labour to the horticultural primary production enterprise
- d) hold an active ABN
- e) lodge an application by the closing date shown on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au
- f) at the time of application have, and intend to continue, a viable horticultural [primary production enterprise](#).

There are clauses relating to [new entrants](#), [seasonal conditions](#) and [value-adding](#) that may impact your eligibility. See full Terms and Conditions from page 3 for details.

Using your grant

You can use your grant for the following eligible activities:

- a) The cost of a third-party provider to supply OR supply and install new and replacement permanent and/or drape-netting/throw-over netting and associated support structures over horticultural crops existing prior to the commencement of the grant program.
- b) The netting must be purchased and installed to increase horticultural productivity by reducing the impacts of adverse weather events or animal predation and to reduce water usage with a mesh size no larger than 30 mm.
- c) Your eligible activity must be new netting installed from 14 December 2021.
- d) You must complete the works and lodge your claim by the claim close date shown on the RAA website.



Checklist for when you apply

These are the documents we will need to process your application.

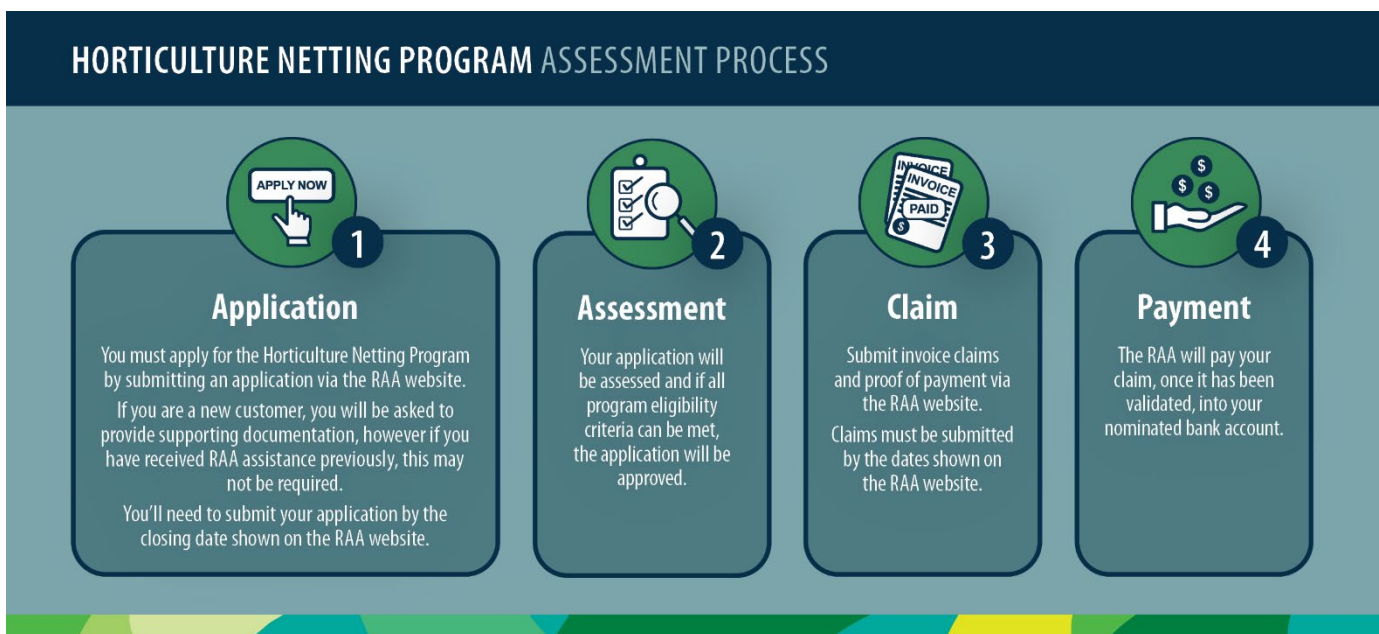
If you have been approved for assistance by the RAA and provided them to us in the past 12 months, you may not need to provide them again.

- Personal tax returns of all members of the business
- Latest farm business tax returns
- Local Land Service or Local Council rates notice
- Quotes, estimates, photos, tax invoices (if you have them)
- Have you read the Terms and Conditions that go with these guidelines, from page 3?

If you have all documentation ready, the application should take approximately 30 minutes for you to complete. We need your documents to make sure these grants only go to genuine primary producers.

How to apply and claim

You'll need to complete an online application and submit any claims by the closing dates shown on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au.



If you need assistance with submitting your application, please contact us:

Phone: 1800 678 593

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

If you have difficulty understanding these guidelines or completing the application form you should seek the assistance of your rural/financial counsellor, business advisor, accountant or a trusted family member/friend.

If you need assistance with interpreting or translating, please contact Multicultural NSW on 1300 651 500 or email languageservices@multicultural.nsw.gov.au.

Applications received after the advertised application closing date cannot be accepted.

Please don't self-assess your eligibility for this grant. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please contact the RAA on free call 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au.



Terms and Conditions

1. About the program

The Horticultural Netting Program provides funding to primary producers for the purchase and third-party installation of new netting or the replacement of damaged netting over horticultural crops.

2. Available funding

- 2.1 Payments will be up to 50 per cent of the costs incurred by eligible primary producers, up to a maximum of \$100,000 (excluding GST), for eligible activities undertaken from 14 December 2021.
- 2.2 Should an initial application be less than the maximum grant amount, further applications may be submitted if additional expenditure is required. The total value of grants to any business will not exceed \$100,000 (excluding GST).
- 2.3 Funds will be provided upon submission of valid tax invoices for eligible activities.
- 2.4 All claims must be submitted by the closing date as shown on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au.
- 2.5 The program will close when all funding has been allocated.
- 2.6 The RAA will endeavour, but is not obliged, to provide advance notification of early closure of the program.
- 2.7 In the event of early closure of the program, the RAA will pay invoices ranked by date received, up to the allocated funding. The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. Rebates will not be offered beyond the allocated funding.
- 2.8 An applicant's unawareness of, or lack of, notification by RAA of early closure of the program will not be grounds for consideration of applications or invoices submitted after the program officially ends.

3. Eligibility criteria

- 3.1 To be eligible for this program you must:
 - a) be a *primary producer*
 - b) derive at least 50 per cent of your income from your horticultural *primary production enterprise*, under *normal seasonal conditions*
 - c) at the time of application have, and intend to continue, a viable horticultural primary production enterprise
 - d) contribute a part of your labour to the primary production enterprise
 - e) hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
 - f) not have gross off farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000, excluding funds in a registered superannuation fund
 - g) lodge an application by the closing date shown on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au.
- 3.2 You may also be eligible for a grant if any of the following apply:
 - a) you derive at least 50 per cent of your total gross income from primary production and value-added products made directly from raw produce grown by you
 - b) your income from primary production is less than 50 per cent of your total income, but you can demonstrate that in the ordinary course of business you would meet that requirement, but:
 - your production income is currently reduced due to [seasonal conditions](#) or [biosecurity events](#) and/or
 - due to long lead times to full production, you expect to earn such an amount of income within a three to eight year period, taking into account the nature of the industry.



4. Eligible activities

- 4.1 The cost of a third-party provider to supply OR supply and install new and replacement permanent and drape-netting/throw-over netting and associated support structures on land that has an established use of horticultural production prior to 14 December 2021.
- 4.2 The netting must be purchased and installed to increase horticultural productivity by reducing the impacts of adverse weather events or animal predation and to reduce water usage with a mesh size no larger than 30 mm.
- 4.3 Your eligible activity must have commenced on or after 14 December 2021 and works must be completed within the claim dates shown on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

5. Ineligible activities

- 5.1 You cannot claim the cost of your own labour.
- 5.2 Repairing or replacing netting damaged by a declared natural disaster including the 2019-20 bushfires or the storms and floods of 2021 and 2022, as this is an eligible activity under natural disaster assistance programs.
- 5.3 Projects that have already received assistance from State or Commonwealth grants. This means that the repair or replacement of netting purchased under a natural disaster grant or the Flying Fox Netting program is not eligible.
- 5.4 A business that is on the market at the program open date.
- 5.5 A business that is put on the market after the program open date may not access any further grants from the point of listing the sale.
- 5.6 A new owner that purchases a business after the program open date will not be eligible for assistance if the former owner has made an application and claimed the grant.
- 5.7 Projects where insurance has been claimed for damaged netting and/or associated support structures.
- 5.8 Retrospective funding for purchase or works carried out prior to 14 December 2021.
- 5.9 Feasibility studies, business cases, reports and development plans.
- 5.10 Costs associated with preparing applications for funding.
- 5.11 Operational expenditure, including wages, utilities, self-installation, repairs and maintenance.

6. Assessment

- 6.1 Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.
- 6.2 The RAA may take into account your credit position and the status of any existing loans to help verify your intention to re-establish or continue the primary production enterprise.
- 6.3 The 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. Failure to provide such information may result in the RAA refusing your application.
- 6.4 The RAA reserves the right to refuse an application where eligibility criteria are not met or where you do not or cannot provide sufficient information for the RAA to determine if eligibility criteria have been met.
- 6.5 The RAA can put an application on hold where the applicant is under investigation or has been charged in relation to the fraudulent receipt of grants under this or other government assistance programs.
- 6.6 Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.
- 6.7 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.



- 6.8 Applications submitted may be subject to audit by the RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.
- 6.9 Before applying for financial assistance under this program, you should seek advice from your legal, business or financial advisers about the tax implications of this financial assistance.
- 6.10 You will be expected to provide a range of supporting documentation, including the latest local council rate notice or local land service rate notice, the latest available Tax Return and Financial Statement for your farm business and complete copies of personal Tax Returns for each member of the farm business.

7. Important information

- 7.1 These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.
- 7.2 The RAA reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you check the relevant website prior to application.
- 7.3 The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by the RAA.

8. Fraudulent claims

- 8.1 The RAA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be assessed and investigated as appropriate, which may require the involvement of external parties such as the NSW Police Force or the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).
- 8.2 By signing the application form you are declaring that the information provided in the application and supporting documentation is true and accurate.
- 8.3 Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of the *Rural Assistance Act 1989* or criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.
- 8.4 The RAA responds to fraud by:
 - audit and site validation of applications and claims that are of concern
 - referral of suspected fraud to the NSW Police Force or the ICAC
 - Recovery of any assistance provided under a fraudulent application.
- 8.5 An application approval or payment of a claim against an approved grant may be delayed where:
 - assistance previously provided by this or any other related NSW government grant program cannot be validated or
 - the outcome of relevant legal or validation actions may impact the decision to grant further assistance.

9. Evaluation

The RAA is committed to providing excellent service that responds to your needs through well-targeted programs. The RAA evaluates its programs for that reason. This includes surveys at various points of your application, approval and completion. The RAA may also contact you to ask about your experience with the assistance you received. The RAA will always treat the responses you provide as confidential and use the information only for the purposes it was collected.

10. Submitting your application

Please apply online at: www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/netting

If you need assistance with submitting your application, please contact us per below.

Phone: 1800 678 593

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

If you have difficulty understanding these guidelines or completing the application form you should seek the assistance of your rural/financial counsellor, business advisor, accountant or a trusted family member/friend.



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Applications received after the advertised application closing date cannot be accepted.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for the program, please contact the RAA on free call 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au.

Please call your nearest Rural Financial Counsellor on 1800 319 458 (Southern and Central NSW) or 1800 344 090 (Northern NSW) if you are in financial difficulty.

11. Definitions

Primary producer means: a sole trader who spends a part of their labour on and derives the majority of their total gross income from a primary production enterprise.

In relation to a partnership, company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust who spend a part of their labour on, and derive the majority of their total gross income from, the primary production enterprise.

Primary production enterprise:

- is carried on by a primary producer and involves primary production, as defined by the ANZSIC Code for Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, including the propagation and maintenance of plants to produce turf, ornamental plants, flowers or timber for the purpose of sale; but excludes activities that involve animals that are not bred for farm work, food or fibre; retail plant nursery businesses; hunting and trapping activities; or agriculture, forestry and fishing support services.
- is registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- is not a public company under the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Seasonal conditions: a year or years where the primary production enterprise has not been adversely affected (financially) by drought, *natural disasters* or *biosecurity events* (like pest and disease). In reviewing past years, the objective is to determine whether there has been any one year in up to the past five years when the primary production enterprise has achieved more than 50% of its gross income from primary production.

Valid tax invoice means a paid invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant. The RAA can ask for proof of payment of the invoice.

Notes

These guidelines have been drafted with reference to terms used in the glossary found at this location. <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/glossary-of-terms>

Helpful Hint

NSW DPI's Farm Tracker App is a free tool that can help you take stock of seasonal conditions on your farm. You can find it in the app store of your Apple or Android phone.