



What is the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding?

The Special Disaster Grants - Severe Weather & Flooding provides eligible primary producers up to \$50,000 and is designed to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster.

What is the easiest way to apply for the grant?

The easiest way to receive your grant is to apply via the [Rural Assistance Authority's \(RAA\) online application form](#).

Who can apply for the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding?

Primary producers who have been directly impacted by the NSW Severe Weather & Flooding in November & December 2021, located in a declared Local Government Area (LGA) can apply for up to \$50,000.

To be eligible for the grant, you must:

- Be a primary producer
- Draw at least 50% of your gross income from your primary production enterprise
- Contribute a part of your labour to the primary production enterprise
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the disaster
- Have a primary production enterprise located in the defined area that has suffered direct damage as a result of this event.
- Have been engaged in carrying on the primary production enterprise when affected by this event.
- Have lodged an application on or before 16 June 2022
- Intend to re-establish or continue the primary production enterprise.

View the list of eligibility criteria [here](#).

How much can I claim and do I need to repay the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding?

Up to \$50,000 can be claimed per affected property that is operated by eligible separate businesses, to help with the costs associated with immediate clean-up and repairs to infrastructure. This is a grant and not a loan, meaning you don't need to repay the funds.

Is the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding applied per business or property?

The grant is per affected property. Some primary producers will be entitled to multiple grants if they have multiple properties within the affected LGAs. A separate application is required for each property.

How long do I have to apply?

The closing date for applications is 16 June 2022.

Can I apply for the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding before I have incurred expenses?

Yes, application forms can be completed online before costs are claimed.

What information do I need to provide with my application?

Applicants must provide a complete application form and:

- Latest farm business tax returns and financial statements plus personal tax return of all members of the business
- Local Land Services (LLS) rate notice
- May include other evidence such as quotes, estimates, tax invoices and/or photos.



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

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

I don't have a copy of my Local Land Service (LLS) rates notice?

LLS can send you a copy of your LLS rates notice. Please contact LLS on 1300 795 299 to request a copy.

I have more than three properties however the application form only allows me to enter the details of three?

You should enter the details of the properties where the majority of damage was incurred. If you require further information, please contact the RAA directly on 1800 678 593.

Is GST included in any payment received?

No. The GST component of any invoice received can be claimed on completion of your Business Activity Statement (BAS). The RAA will not issue a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) on payment of the rebate, and you should retain the Payment Advice that is forwarded as a record for taxation purposes.

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

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

How do I prove damage from the severe weather and/or floods?

To make it easier for you to apply, the RAA has access to third party damage assessment information, for example high-resolution imagery, to confirm the extent of the impacts in declared flood-affected local government areas in NSW.

However, it is important that you provide reasonable evidence of severe weather/flood damage with your application so we can fully assess your situation.

Some examples include:

- Quotes or estimates for works to be completed.
- Tax invoices of expenses incurred for clean up or salvage works already completed following the severe weather and flooding which commenced on 9 November 2021
- Photos taken of damaged property with time, date and location stamps. These are not mandatory however will assist us to assess your claim.

What evidence do I need to provide to receive payment of the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding?

A total of \$50,000 is available for primary producers. Funds of up to \$10,000 will be provided to eligible, approved applicants, without the need to provide evidence of payment at the point of application. Such funds can be provided on the basis of quotes or estimates.

If you have applied for more than \$10,000 you will be required to provide proof of payment such as valid tax invoices for both the first \$10,000, as well as any amount that you want to be reimbursed for over \$10,000 up to the maximum of \$50,000.



Do I need to provide proof of payment of the \$50,000 upfront?

You can elect to provide proof of payment such as invoices for the full \$50,000 or you can choose to do this in stages as you incur the cost.

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

The RAA will look at your situation. Some businesses will take a shorter period of time to achieve full production (eg beef cattle) while others will take longer (eg. orchards). We will review your financial statements and look for a trend toward the timeline to full production that fits for your industry.

What can I apply for?

The Special Disaster Grant – Severe Weather & Flooding is designed to help primary producers pay for immediate clean-up and repairs to infrastructure. Eligible activities are outlined in the program guidelines, please check the guidelines prior to applying.

Funding cannot be used for activities already covered by insurance or other government funding programs.

Can I use the Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding to buy replacement machinery and plant that was damaged?

Yes, you can use the grant to cover the repair or replacement costs of agricultural equipment.

Can I claim the loss of income?

No, the grant cannot be used to reimburse the loss of income.

Can I claim for the hours I spend on clean up and repairing the business?

You can claim for third parties including independent contractors to help with clean up and repair. When it comes to paying staff, the time of owners or shareholders in the business cannot be claimed. You can, however, claim the hours of employees who have no ownership role in the business, where you can show that those hours are above standard day to day wages and can be explained on the basis of cleaning up and repairs in relation to the natural disaster event.

I have never had to plant pasture before as I have always had natural growth, however due to flooding I now don't have any feed in the paddock and the pasture recovery process will be slow, likely taking months to re-grow. Can I claim for pasture recovery?

Yes – you can claim for pasture recovery. To assess claims for pasture recovery we need evidence of how much of the paddock has been damaged and an understanding of what the land was being used for prior to the flood and the future intentions. Please provide any supporting information or documents, which could include, previous invoices for expenses, invoices for input costs and/or photos.

I want to salvage my crop and/or restore my fields – what can I claim?

Yes – you can claim for salvaging crops and restoring fields. To assess these claims we need evidence of how much of the crop/fields has been damaged and an understanding of what the land was being used for prior to the flood and the future intentions. Please provide any supporting information or documents which could include, previous invoices for expenses, invoices for input costs and/or photos.



Can I use my own machinery to clear my paddocks?

Yes - you can use your own machinery however, under the grant guidelines the RAA will only pay for the diesel/fuel cost associated with the use of this that this piece of machinery uses. You will be required to complete a detailed logbook showing hours worked, details of improvements, machinery used, etc. and the paid diesel/fuel invoice showing the litres purchased.

Only part of my crop has been impacted by the flood event - am I able to claim costs associated with the replacement of this crop?

Yes - replacement of damaged crops is eligible however, evidence is required to demonstrate the extent of the damages being claimed. Please provide any supporting information or documents which could include, previous invoices for expenses, invoices for input costs and/or photos. Please note if only a portion of the crop has been damaged, the RAA will need to assess the full scope of damages to ascertain those replacement costs that are eligible.

Can I use this grant to cover damages where I have made a claim under insurance?

Damages covered by insurance are not eligible to be claimed under this program. You are only able to claim for portions of costs not covered by insurance.

Can I apply for the Special Disaster Grants - Severe Weather & Flooding if I have already been approved for assistance for the February/March 2021 flood event?

Primary producers eligible for the \$75,000 Special Disaster Grants – Storm & Floods in local government areas impacted by the floods and severe weather during February/March 2021 can also apply for the \$50,000 Special Disaster Grants – Severe Weather & Flooding. Applicants will be required to declare which Grant they are claiming eligible invoices against and may be asked to demonstrate they have claimed their full eligible amount from the earlier disaster.

After I receive my initial \$10,000, how long do I have to claim the remaining \$40,000?

You have 12 months from the date of declaration to submit a claim.

After I receive my initial \$10,000, how do I claim the remaining \$40,000?

You must submit your claims through the online claims form. You will need to have your tax invoices along with proof of payment. The RAA will send information via email with a link to the claim form once your grant is approved. The claim form will ask you for some of the details found on your invoices and will then ask you to upload a copy of the invoice and proof of payment.

How long will it take to be approved?

Our commitment to you is to assess your application efficiently and effectively to help bring your primary production enterprise back to normal operations as quickly as possible.



**Rural
Assistance
Authority**

NSW Government's Special Disaster Grants - Severe Weather & Flooding (November & December 2021)

Frequently Asked Questions

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](#).

Rural Financial Counselling Service

If you are experiencing any issues completing the application form, free confidential assistance is available from your local Rural Financial Counselling Service - www.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 Special Disaster Grants - Severe Weather & Flooding please contact the RAA on 1800 678 593 or at rural.assis@raa.nsw.gov.au.