

Rural Landholder Grants

NSW STORMS & FLOODS

1. Objective

The Rural Landholder's Grant seeks to alleviate the personal and financial distress and assist in the recovery of rural landholders who have suffered direct damage to their assets as a result of the storms and floods that occurred from 19 February 2021 onwards (AGRN 954) or the storms and floods that occurred from 10 March 2021 onwards (AGRN 960). This Grant is designed to assist rural landholders who have been affected by the storms and floods and are ineligible for declared natural disaster assistance because they do not meet the 50% of income from primary production requirement.

2. About the program

This program provides a grant for rural landholders who were affected by the storms and floods occurring in February or March 2021 and who derive less than 50 per cent of their income from primary production. The grant can be used for clean-up activities, damages or losses that are beyond the vicinity of the residential dwelling. This includes, but is not limited to, the removal of debris, damaged material and deceased livestock, maintenance of livestock health, and repairing or replacing of fodder, fencing and essential water infrastructure.

3. Available funding

The maximum grant amount for clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures, per affected property is \$10,000.

Funds of up to \$10,000 will be provided to eligible, approved applicants, upon submission of invoice(s) including proof of payment.

A single application will be accepted and should cover an estimate of all damage incurred, up to the \$10,000 limit.

4. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the grant, you must:

- a) be in a Local Government Area (LGA) declared as a natural disaster, as part of the NSW storms and floods that occurred from 19 February 2021 onwards (AGRN 954) or from 10 March 2021 onwards (AGRN 960); and
- b) be normally charged rates under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*; and
- c) hold property of at least 10 hectares (24.7 acres) in size; and
- d) have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- e) not receive the majority of your income from primary production; and
- f) earn no more than \$180,000 from gross off-farm income, as individuals, directors or shareholders. That is, if there are three people involved in a primary production enterprise, they can each earn up to \$180,000 gross from income that is not derived from the applying primary production enterprise. The applicant will need to submit one or multiple self-declaration(s), confirming that each individual involved, does not earn more than \$180,000 gross from off-farm income.
- g) not have gross off farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000 (excluding funds in a registered superannuation fund).
- h) undertake primary production as verified through the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification ANZSIC Code*; and
- i) earn at least \$20,000 per annum from primary production; and
- j) be able to demonstrate that you have personally faced costs for clean-up activities, losses or damages beyond the vicinity of your residential dwelling, arising from the February 2021 or March 2021 storm and flood events; and
- k) have a record of tax invoices and proof of payments for your clean-up activities, losses or damages that collectively exceed \$250 OR you have quotations for clean-up activities, losses or damages that collectively exceeds \$250; and
- l) not have received or be entitled to receive, assistance under the Special Disaster Assistance (Floods) Primary Producer Grants, or other natural disaster assistance, in the capacity of being a primary producer, small business owner or non-profit organisation; and
- m) not have received or be entitled to receive, a payment under a policy of insurance for the costs being claimed.

5. How funding may be used:

Grants are provided to help pay for the costs of clean up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures associated with the immediate recovery of primary production enterprises. Eligible claims may include:

- a) Hiring or leasing equipment or materials to clean premises, property or equipment.
- b) Removing and disposing of debris, damaged goods and materials including injured or dead livestock.
- c) Repairing or replacing fencing and/or other essential property infrastructure.
- d) Purchasing and transporting fodder or feed for livestock.
- e) Replacing livestock.
- f) Replacing lost or damaged plants, salvaging crops, repairing or restoring fields.
- g) Repairing, reconditioning or replacing essential plant or equipment.
- h) Maintaining the health of livestock.
- i) Paying additional wages to an employee to assist with clean-up work (above and beyond normal wage expenditure, i.e. day-to-day staffing).
- j) Repairing buildings (except dwellings, unless they are used for staff accommodation).
- k) Other claims consistent with these guidelines and agreed by the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

6. Exclusions

You will not be eligible for a grant if:

- a) You have received or are eligible to receive, financial assistance for costs associated with the items described in section 5 from another government assistance scheme.
- b) You are entitled to receive a payment under an insurance policy for costs directly associated with items from section 5. You will be eligible for a grant for the portion of costs that are not covered by your insurance, or for amounts in excess of the value insured.
- c) You have already applied for this grant in relation to the same property.

The following costs are ineligible:

- a) Damage to residential properties or dwellings.
- b) Damages that are covered by insurance.
- c) Own labour (including existing staff and own equipment).
- d) Expansion projects, or for areas that were not in active production, however this should not prevent sensible preparation for future events.
- e) Loss of income.

7. Application and Claiming process

Refer to the RAA website to complete an online application. Include quotes, estimates or invoices where available. It is not mandatory to complete all expenditure before applying for a grant,

8. Period for claiming.

Applications must be lodged by **Friday 28 January 2022**. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.

9. Assessment

- a) You will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.
- b) RAA reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist with the assessment of your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in RAA refusing your application.
- c) RAA reserves the right to refuse an application where eligibility criteria are not met, or where RAA cannot determine if eligibility criteria have been met due to the lack of sufficient information.
- d) Applications submitted may be subject to audit by RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with program guidelines.
- e) Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

- f) 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.
- g) You will be asked for a copy of your most recent Local Land Services Rates notice.
- h) You will be asked to provide a range of supporting documentation, including Tax Return and Financial Statements for the entity applying.
- i) You may be asked for a copy of your insurance policy.

10. Important Information

- a) These 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) The Australian Government has made the grant assistance received under this scheme non-assessable, non-exempt income. Applicants do not pay tax on non-assessable, non-exempt income and do not include the amount when they work out their tax loss. Grant assistance received under this scheme is also not subject to GST.
- e) The RAA will assess the effectiveness, efficiency and efficacy of this program and will ask you questions at key points through your application process. You may also be contacted after the program is completed to seek your feedback about the program.

11. 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 false, inaccurate 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 false, inaccurate or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the funds.

12. Submitting your application

Apply online at:

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/disaster-recovery-grants>

If you need assistance with submitting your application, contact the RAA via the details 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.

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

13. Definitions

ANZSIC Code: Includes subdivisions 01: Agriculture, 02: Aquaculture, 03: Forestry and Logging, 041: Fishing. See <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/E10DAB4944B2F14DCA25711F00146D78?opendocument>

Direct damage means a direct and material impact of floods, or flood mitigation activities on business assets or equipment, including livestock.

Defined disaster area for an eligible disaster means the area that the appropriate Minister has defined for the purpose of activating the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. These are shown on the RAA's website and in the table below.

Proof of costs incurred means a valid tax 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. Proof of payment may also be required, including receipts, remittance notices or statements of account.

Eligible disaster	Defined disaster area
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<p>NSW Storms and Floods from 10 March 2021 (AGRN 960)</p>	<p>Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Bega Valley, Bellingen, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Bogan, Brewarrina , Byron, Cabonne, Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury Bankstown, Central Coast, Central Darling, Cessnock City Council, Clarence Valley, Cobar, Coffs Harbour City, Coonamble, Cumberland, Dungog Shire, Eurobodalla, Fairfield, Georges River, Gilgandra , Glen Innes Severn, Goulburn Mulwaree, Greater Hume, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Inner West, Inverell, Kempsey, Ku-ring-gai, Kyogle, Lachlan, Lake Macquarie City, Lismore, Lithgow, Liverpool, Liverpool Plains, Maitland City, Mid-Coast, Moree Plains, Muswellbrook, Nambucca Valley, Narrabri, Narromine, Newcastle City, Northern Beaches, Oberon, Parramatta, Penrith, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Port Stephens, Queanbeyan-Palerang , Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven , Singleton, Snowy Monaro, Sutherland, Tamworth, Temora, Tenterfield, The Hills, Tweed, Upper Lachlan, Uralla, Walcha, Walgett, Warren, Wingecarribee, and Wollondilly Declared – 1 April 2021</p>
<p>NSW Storms & Floods from 19 February 2021 (AGRN 954)</p>	<p>Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Kyogle, Lismore, Nambucca Valley, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley Declared 26 April 2021</p>

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