

The Scheme

The Australian Government has established the three-year, \$50 million *On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme* to provide a one-off rebate to eligible primary producers in drought affected areas for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of On-farm water infrastructure that:

- addresses animal welfare needs;
- helps primary producers to be more resilient for future droughts;
- increases productivity for primary producers; and
- mitigates degradation of natural watering points.

The Scheme is administered in Tasmania through the AgriGrowth Tasmania Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (the Department).

Prospective applicants for the rebate are advised to carefully consider the eligibility criteria and the list of eligible and ineligible activities before submitting an application. The Department welcomes enquiries at any stage in the process.

Duration

The Scheme commenced operating in Tasmania in May 2019 (for water infrastructure purchased on or after 1 July 2018) and will close to new applications on 31 March 2021 or when Tasmania's funding allocation is exhausted, whichever occurs first. No rebates will be provided beyond the allocated funding.

Assistance available

The rebate claimable under the Scheme is 25 per cent of the costs (exclusive of GST) associated with the purchase and installation of On-farm water infrastructure. The maximum rebate that can be claimed is \$25 000 (excluding GST) per primary production business.

For example, if an applicant incurs costs totalling \$100 000 purchasing and installing On-farm water infrastructure on the applicant's property, the applicant would be eligible to receive the maximum rebate of \$25 000 subject to satisfying the following eligibility criteria.

Eligible applicants

To be eligible to receive a rebate under the Scheme an applicant must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) The applicant is a property owner, share-farmer or lessee in the grazing industry (including the beef, dairy, sheep meat, wool or other grazing industries).
- b) The applicant operates a primary production business as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company.
- c) The applicant:
 - (i) earns more than 50 per cent of its gross income from primary production activities under normal seasonal circumstances; OR
 - (ii) commenced operating the primary production business between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2018 and more than 50 per cent of the applicant's gross income will be derived from the business within three years of the date of the application (the eligibility of new entrants will be considered on a case by case basis).
- d) The applicant's property is located in an eligible area impacted by drought (refer to the Eligible Area Map).
- e) The water infrastructure detailed in the applicant's application was purchased on or after 1 July 2018 and installed:
 - (i) for grazing livestock residing on the applicant's property, that is not agisted stock;
 - (ii) for an animal welfare need; and
 - (iii) to improve drought resilience.

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Eligible activities

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

1. pipes;
2. water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering;
3. water pumps and associated water distribution systems;
4. the drilling of new stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators;
5. desilting of existing dams;
6. any other materials or equipment necessary to install the above water infrastructure, including any freight component to purchase and install the equipment but excluding the purchase of machinery;
7. any professional costs to install the water infrastructure; and
8. the cost of obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals for the water infrastructure.

Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply to:

- any purchase made prior to 1 July 2018;
- water infrastructure purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock, including water infrastructure associated with crop, pasture or fodder irrigation;
- ongoing labour costs associated with the operation and maintenance of new or improved infrastructure and equipment;
- water infrastructure costs financed by the Australian Government or the Tasmanian Government under another program, other than a loan program;
- the applicant's own labour costs, or wages paid to an employee of the applicant's primary production business; or
- construction of new dams or modification of an existing dam (except for desilting).

Applications

Applications for a rebate under the Scheme must be made on the designated application form available at <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture>, and include or attach the information and documentation specified in the form.

Applications will be assessed in order of receipt, except where the application is incomplete. Incomplete applications will not be assessed until the applicant has supplied all of the required information.

Applications can be submitted by email or post as follows:

By email: agrigrowth@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au
By post: On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme
AgriGrowth Tasmania
PO Box 46
Kings Meadows TAS 7249

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries concerning the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme to:

AgriGrowth Tasmania
Phone: **1300 292 292**
Email: agrigrowth@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

Assessment

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria for the Scheme. The Department may request further information from the applicant, or any business or individual engaged by the applicant, to assist in assessing the application and to verify any information provided in the application. Failure to provide such information may result in the application being rejected.

The Secretary of the Department's delegate, will make the final decision on all applications taking into account the Department's assessment of each application.

If an application is successful, the amount of the rebate (excluding GST) will be paid to the applicant's nominated bank account.

Other important information

The Department reserves the right to revise these guidelines at any time, including the Eligible Area Map. Revised guidelines will be clearly marked and published online on the same web page as the guidelines they replace. Each application will be assessed against the guidelines current at the time the application is received by the Department.

The Department may reject an application if the applicant is found to be in breach of any other funding, grant or loan agreement with the Tasmanian Government, or withhold payment of the rebate until the breach is rectified to the satisfaction of the Department.

Successful applicants may be subject to audit by the Department or its agents in order to determine compliance with the Scheme Guidelines. This may include an inspection of relevant records and/or the infrastructure installed on the applicant's property to verify that it is in accordance with the Guidelines.

If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant will be notified of the reasons for the decision and provided with an opportunity to request a review of the decision.