

On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate 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.

Up to \$3.0 million is available through the Scheme to assist Tasmanian graziers affected by drought.

Who administers the scheme?

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

What assistance is 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.

How long will the scheme operate for and when will applications close?

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.

How do I know if I am eligible for assistance?

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.

What activities are eligible for funding?

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 to undertake installation;
7. any professional costs to install the water infrastructure; and
8. the cost of obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals for the water infrastructure.

What activities are not eligible for funding?

The rebate does not apply to:

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

How much do I get paid?

The maximum rebate that can be claimed is \$25 000 (excluding GST) per primary production business over the duration of the scheme.

How many times can I apply for the rebate?

Each eligible primary production business may lodge more than one application over the duration of the Scheme, however the total rebate claimed by that business must not exceed \$25 000 (excluding GST).

Is there an assets and income threshold?

There is no asset test or income threshold. An applicant must only meet the eligibility requirements detailed in the Scheme Guidelines.

How will payments be made?

If an application is approved, the approved rebate amount will be credited directly to the applicant's nominated bank account via Funds Transfer (EFT).

Do I need to provide receipts?

Yes, you will be required to provide proof of payment (tax invoices or receipts) as specified in the application form.

How do I know if my application has been received?

When you submit an application you will receive notification from the Department confirming that the application has been received.

Are not-for-profit organisations eligible to apply?

No. To be eligible an applicant must be registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a primary producer. Please refer to the eligibility criteria in the Scheme Guidelines for further information about who is eligible to apply.

How can I make an application?

Applications for a rebate under the Scheme must be made on the designated application form available at <https://dipw.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 accepted until the applicant has supplied all of the required information.

What attachments do I need to include in my application?

The application form lists the required supporting documentation.

How do I submit my application?

Applications can be submitted by email or post as follows:

By email: agrigrowth@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

By post: On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme
AgriGrowth Tasmania
PO Box 46
Kings Meadows TAS 7249

Who assesses my application?

Staff from the Department's AgriGrowth Tasmania Division will assess each application against the eligibility criteria contained in the Scheme Guidelines. They may request further information from the applicant's nominated contact person, or any business or individual engaged by the applicant, to assist in assessing an 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 AgriGrowth Tasmania's assessment of each application.

Can I request a review of the Department's decision on my application?

Yes. If you disagree with the decision on your application you can write to the Department requesting a review of the decision. The decision will be reviewed by the Secretary of the Department and you will be notified of the outcome.

How long will it take to assess my application?

The Department will endeavour to notify you of the decision on your application within one month of receiving the application, plus any additional time required to obtain further information from the applicant.

Authority to act on behalf of owner(s)/manager

The owner(s) or manager of the primary production business would normally be expected to sign the application form and be the nominated contact person for the business, however a signed authority for another person to act as agent (such as an accountant or family member) can be provided.

Will my application be audited on completion of the project?

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.

Is the rebate taxable?

Yes. Rebates provided under this Scheme are assessable income for taxation purposes and must be declared. It is recommended that you seek professional advice on your tax obligations.

Key Points

- The Scheme operates in eligible local government areas identified on the Eligible Area Map;
- On-farm emergency water infrastructure rebates are available to eligible applicants for the purchase and installation of infrastructure to water grazing livestock (not crop, pasture or fodder irrigation);
- Eligible primary production businesses can claim up to 25 per cent of the total costs of purchasing and installing on-farm water infrastructure for stock;
- The maximum rebate that can be claimed per eligible primary production business is \$25 000 (excluding GST) over the duration of the Scheme;
- The Scheme will close to new applications on 31 March 2021 or when Tasmania's funding allocation is exhausted, whichever occurs first;
- The Eligible Area Map may be changed during the course of the Scheme to add additional eligible local government areas in response to seasonal conditions;
- Once a local government area becomes eligible, it remains eligible for the duration of the Scheme.

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries about the Scheme to:

AgriGrowth Tasmania

Phone: 1300 292 292

Email: agrigrowth@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au