

+ Farm Business Analysis Assistance

The Farm Business Analysis Assistance program is a free no obligation service, designed to assist primary producers experiencing financial difficulty to get back on track with their finances. Below is an outline of the application process.

Applicant

Independent Consultant

You approach QRIDA or your financial advisor(s) to discuss program eligibility. This may include your bank, accountant, financial advisor, rural financial counsellor, or anyone else familiar with your financial position. You can find details about eligibility requirements in the Farm Business Analysis Assistance Guidelines.

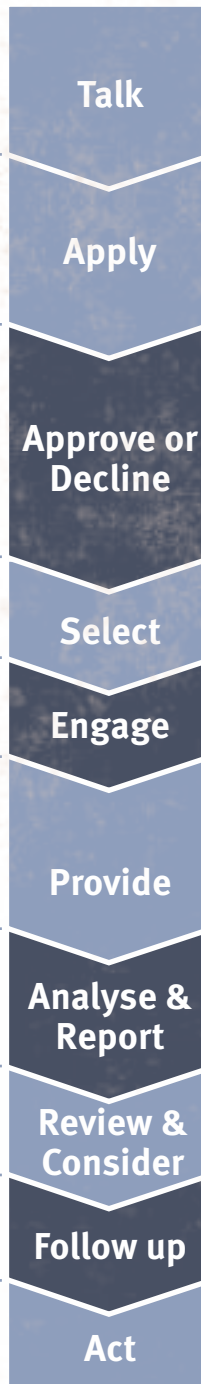
You send your completed application and accompanying documents to the **Farm Debt Restructure Office (FDRO)**. Part of being eligible is ensuring you and your relevant professionals are willing and able to assist the process.

Once approved, **you** choose your preferred independent consultant from the panel and notify the FDRO of your first and second choice of providers.

You will need to assist the consultant understand your business situation. This may include additional documents and questions. Your financier and accountant may be asked to supply additional information depending on your situation.

Once the report is complete **you** need to read it. It is recommended you share the findings with your financial advisor(s) and talk through the ideas and options in the report with the independent consultant.

What **you** choose to do with the information and options in the report is completely up to you. You are not obligated to take any particular course of action or engage anyone as a result of the report.



The **FDRO** assesses your application for assistance.
If approved, the FDRO may ask you for further documents depending on your situation.

The **FDRO** will engage your chosen independent consultant on your behalf.

The **independent consultant** will evaluate your business to provide ideas and options to understand your objectives and capacity.

As indicated in the guidelines, the **FDRO** will ask you to complete a survey to assess the quality of the service provided to you.

This program is funded by the Queensland Government and delivered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

*Farm Debt Restructure Office Manager,
Daniel Elder with Farm Business Analysis
Assistance client, Billy Carson.*

+ Options for producers in times of uncertainty

Beyond the house yard fence of the Carson's sheep and cotton property, the reality of crippling drought in South West Queensland hit hard.

Like many producers across the region, the family sought relief behind a blanket of lush green grass surrounding their home. Immediately beyond the fence lay a further 15,000 acres of dry land waiting for rain.

In January 2020, the drought situation at Hooloovale, near Dirranbandi, was not unlike the Carson's two other properties, Ooraine and Somerset, together totalling 45,000 acres, representing the plight of many producers in Queensland.

The drought forced Billy and his family to make some tough decisions about the future of his family's farming empire, which his parents started in the 70s. They had never had to consider so many ways to make the sheep pay for themselves.

An independent review through the [Farm Business Analysis Assistance](#) program validated what they are already doing.

“It gave us confidence in what we were doing, we were going in the right direction...”

The program, delivered as part of the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority's (QRIDA) Farm Debt Restructure Office (FDRO), aims to get producers and financiers back around the table to tackle farm debt head-on.

“It gave us confidence in what we were doing, we were going in the right direction,” Billy said.

Billy's bank manager referred him to the Farm Business Analysis Assistance program, a no-obligation, free service which uses a panel of farm debt restructuring experts with significant experience in investigation and guidance for producers in financial difficulty.

“It made me more confident to be able to see the report before anyone else. We were very happy with the support and the transparency, what we saw is what we got,” he said.

“It made the bank a lot more comfortable, it's always good to have an external opinion.

“I think it's an excellent thing to do for your business. It looks into your business, how you do things. It's external so there is no vested interest, there is no pressure from the bank and it's up to you if you want to send it to your bank.

“This gives you something to discuss with your bank, to show them you are actively trying to improve your business which is all the bank wants you to do.

“It was another tool that didn't cost you anything.”

For more information on the Farm Business Analysis Assistance program visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au/farm-debt-services or Freecall 1800 623 946.

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