

Rural Landholder Recovery Grants Guidelines

1. About the program

The objective of this assistance is to alleviate landholder distress, repair damage, and reduce hazards and risks to eligible properties not covered by insurance or eligible for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) funding. This assistance is funded by the Australian and Queensland Government to support Queensland communities in their recovery from an *eligible disaster*.

The Rural Landholder Recovery Grant Scheme provides a rebate to rural landholders to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of a *primary production enterprise* that has suffered direct damage as a result of an *eligible disaster*.

The funding amounts that have been made available to provide rebates under the scheme for the *eligible disasters* are as follows:

- \$3 million for Tropical Cyclone Jasper and associated rainfall and flooding, 13 – 28 December 2023.
- \$1.5 million for Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September – 7 November 2023.
- \$1 million for Northern Queensland Bushfires, 18 October – 8 December 2023 (funded by Queensland Government using efficiencies realised under joint Commonwealth-state DRFA).

2. Available funding

2.1 The maximum **rebate** available is **\$10,000**.

2.2 To support a claim, evidence of the direct damage including photographs, tax invoices and official receipts is required.

3. How funding may be used

3.1 Grants are provided to help pay for the costs of the clean-up and *reinstatement* of the *primary production enterprise*. This includes:

- a) removing and disposing of flood related debris or damaged goods and materials;
- b) removing and disposing of and replacement of dead livestock;
- c) repairing or reinstating uninsured, flood damaged sheds, water tanks and water for stock, feed trays or fencing on the property, to pre-disaster standard only (excludes houses);
- d) removing and disposing of dangerous trees;
- e) repairing primary access and exit to the relevant property;
- f) salvaging crops, grain or feed, or purchasing fodder to replace stock lost as a result of the event;



- g) reinstatement of access to water for use in the *primary production enterprise*;
- h) engaging a suitably qualified tradesperson to conduct a safety inspection of damage to a property, premises or equipment;
- i) purchasing, hiring or leasing equipment or materials to clean a property, premises or equipment;
- j) employing a person to clean a property, premises or equipment if:
 - the cost would not ordinarily have been incurred in the absence of an eligible disaster; or
 - the cost exceeds the cost of employing a person to clean the property, premises or equipment that would ordinarily have been incurred in the absence of an eligible disaster;
- k) repairing a building or repairing or replacing fittings in a building, if the repair or replacement is essential for resuming operation of the primary production enterprise. (Funding is not available for repairs to a building that is the rural landholders principal place of residence).
- l) repairing or restoring fields;
- m) repairing or reconditioning essential plant or equipment; and
- n) purchasing, hiring or leasing plant, equipment or materials that are essential for immediately resuming operation of the primary production enterprise.

3.2 An applicant is **not eligible** for assistance under the scheme:

- a) for costs that are reimbursable under other funding sources (including a policy of insurance), that the eligible applicant or property owner has received, or is entitled to receive for the claimed activity or works;
- b) for legal costs, costs associated with preparing, reporting and acquitting DRFA applications and projects;
- c) for loss of income as a result of an *eligible disaster*;
- d) for on-going costs such as administration, operation and maintenance; or
- e) for costs incurred prior to the *eligible disaster*.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 To be eligible for a rebate under the scheme, the applicant must:

- a) be the owner, or lessee under a long term lease, of land of at least 10 hectares (24.7 acres) in the *defined disaster area* on which the applicant operates a ***primary production enterprise***;
- b) hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of an *eligible disaster*;
- c) have been engaged in carrying on the *primary production enterprise* when affected by an *eligible disaster*;
- d) in the financial year immediately before the event, have earned at least \$20,000 gross income from the *primary production enterprise* on the affected property;
- e) in the financial year immediately before the event, have a combined gross off-farm income of no more than \$250,000;
- f) be primarily responsible for meeting the costs claimed in the application;
- g) intend to re-establish the *primary production enterprise* in the *defined disaster area* for an *eligible disaster*; and
- h) not have received assistance related to the *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Assistance Loans Scheme (Primary Producers) or the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme (Primary Producers) in relation to the *eligible disaster*.

5. How to apply

5.1 To be considered for a Rural Landholder Recovery Grant please submit a completed application form, accompanied by the documentation stated on the application form. This includes a rates notice/lease agreement, 5-10 photographs of the damage, *evidence of expenditure* and details of any insurance.

5.2 Application forms and related information can be accessed at www.qrida.qld.gov.au.

- 5.3** Complete applications are assessed in order of receipt and QRIDA may request further information to help assess an application.
- 5.4** The scheme will close to applications as per the date stated in section 8 of the guidelines, or earlier if available funds have been fully used.

6. Terms and conditions

- 6.1** Applicants must retain all tax invoices, *official receipts*, bank statements, quotations or other similar records for assistance received under the scheme until one year after the *closing day* for applications for an *eligible disaster*.
- 6.2** Applicants must consent to QRIDA conducting an audit of quotations, tax invoices, *official receipts*, bank statements or other similar records to verify the amounts given under the scheme have been used in accordance with the claim. Penalties may apply for false or misleading information.
- 6.3** Applicants must provide authorisation for QRIDA to contact their insurer to confirm or verify entitlements or the outcome of any claims made in relation to an *eligible disaster*.

7. Conflicts of interest

- 7.1** A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if the applicant's private interests' conflict with their obligations under the agreement. Conflicts of interest could affect the awarding or performance of the applicant's agreement. A conflict of interest can be:
- real (or actual);
 - apparent (or perceived); or
 - potential.
- 7.2** QRIDA will ask the applicant to declare, as part of the application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If the applicant later identifies that there is an actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to the agreement, the applicant must inform QRIDA in writing immediately.

8. Defined disaster areas

2023-2025 disaster event	Defined disaster areas	Application closing date
Tropical Cyclone Jasper, associated rainfall and flooding, 13 – 28 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cairns Regional Council • Cassowary Coast Regional Council • Cook Shire Council • Douglas Shire Council • Hinchinbrook Shire Council • Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council • Mareeba Shire Council • Tablelands Regional Council • Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council • Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council 	31 March 2025
Southern Queensland Bushfires, 8 September – 7 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundaberg Regional Council • Central Highlands Regional Council • Gladstone Regional Council • Maranoa Regional Council • North Burnett Regional Council • South Burnett Regional Council • Southern Downs Regional Council • Toowoomba Regional Council • Western Downs Regional Council 	31 March 2025
Efficiency funded disaster event	Defined disaster areas	Application closing date
Northern Queensland Bushfires, 18 October – 8 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Shire Council • Flinders Shire Council • Mareeba Shire Council • McKinlay Shire Council 	31 March 2025

	• Tablelands Regional Council	
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9. Fraudulent applications

- 9.1** QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be assessed and investigated, which may require involvement of external parties such as Queensland Police Service (QPS) or Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- 9.2** In submitting an online application to QRIDA, you acknowledge the information provided in the application form is true and accurate.
- 9.3** The provision of false and misleading information and documents is an offence and penalties may be applied under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.
- 9.4** QRIDA responds to fraud by:
- (a) inquiries and review of applications and funding that are suspicious
 - (b) referral to law enforcement agencies such as QPS or CCC of suspected fraud
 - (c) pursue the recovery of funds provided under a fraudulent application.

10. Privacy

- 10.1** QRIDA's Privacy Policy, available at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects uses, and discloses individuals' personal information.
- 10.2** The application portal for this Scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used and disclosed.

11. More information

For more information on the exceptional circumstances grant contact us on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au.

12. Definitions

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 published on QRIDA's website and set-out in section 8 above.

Eligible disaster means a *2023-2025 disaster event* as described in section 8 above.

Evidence of expenditure means a tax invoice showing full details of goods or services (identifiable as relating to damage from the eligible disaster) and the corresponding official receipt. The relevant cheque butt or bank transfer documentation is required if unable to provide an official receipt.

Full-time employee means an individual who ordinarily works for at least 35 hours each week for the business.

Official receipt means a receipt including the name and address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the receipt and a description of each item to which the receipt relates.

Primary production enterprise means a business that involves primary production, including the agricultural, apicultural, aquacultural, commercial wild-catch fishing, forestry, grazing and horticultural industries.

Public company means a *public company* within the meaning of the Corporations Act.

Reinstatement means the carrying out of activities that are necessary to help the *primary production enterprise* continue or resume production at a similar level as before the *eligible disaster*.

Relevant land means land that is located in a defined disaster area and has a total area of at least 10 hectares.