

On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Tasmania Guidelines

October 2023

1. About the Program

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments are offering a rebate to primary producers and horticultural farmers to purchase and install new on-farm water infrastructure, or repair and replace damaged infrastructure. These rebates address animal welfare needs, permanent planting needs, recovery from natural disasters and improve resilience to drought. Recipients will be required to demonstrate that they are from the grazing or horticulture industries, and they are drought affected or impacted by an eligible natural disaster.

An eligible natural disaster under this Scheme is the severe weather event in October 2022 which significantly impacted parts of 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Northern Tasmania, primarily Break O'Day, Burnie, Central Coast, Central Highlands, Circular Head, Devonport, Dorset, Flinders, George Town, Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Kentish, Latrobe, Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, Waratah-Wynyard, West Coast and West Tamar.

The Scheme is funded by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments and is administered by AgriGrowth Tasmania in the Agriculture, Forestry and Water Strategic Business Unit of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) (the Department).

The Scheme is open to applications any time until **31 December 2023**. Evidence that project activities are completed will need provided by **29 March 2024**.

2. Available funding

The Scheme provides a one-off 25 per cent rebate up to \$25,000 (GST exclusive) to eligible primary producers and horticulture farmers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of eligible on-farm water infrastructure and/or repairs:

The maximum rebate that can be claimed is \$25 000 (ex GST) per primary production enterprise.

For example, if you incur costs totalling \$100 000 (ex GST) installing on-farm water infrastructure on your property, your primary production enterprise would be eligible to receive the maximum rebate of \$25 000 (ex GST) subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria.

3. Eligibility

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. Please call AgriGrowth Tasmania through FarmPoint farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or phone 1300 292 292. They are able to assist with enquiries at any time in the process.

Eligible applicants MUST...

- a. be a primary producer or horticultural farmer from the grazing or horticulture industries:
 - i. For the purposes of this grant program an eligible Primary Producer refers to the carrying on of a business of primary production consistent with Taxation Ruling [TR97/11](#) available on the www.ato.gov.au website.
 - ii. A Horticultural Farmer is a farmer with permanent planting such as olives, nuts, wine grapes, truffles or fruit orchards.
 - iii. A primary producer is undertaking the grazing of livestock (animals primarily grazing in a pasture-based open-air grazing system).
- b. be property owners, share farmers or lease holders in the livestock grazing industry
- c. undertake project activities for grazing livestock or permanent plantings that the landholder owns (for example, not stock agisted on their property).

The property must be within an area that is either:

- a. impacted by drought. Drought is considered a prolonged, abnormally dry period when there is not enough water for users' normal needs. The location must be in an area suffering from an acute water shortage not caused by a man-induced temporary water imbalance, aridity or water scarcity. Refer to My Climate View or the Bureau of Meteorology to find out the latest information on rainfall deficiencies and water availability in Tasmania or contact FarmPoint email: farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or phone 1300 292 292 to discuss your situation.
- b. one of the 18 LGA's impacted by the natural disaster of the floods in October 2022.

4. Eligible activities

Water infrastructure must be purchased and installed for genuine animal welfare purposes or to maintain existing permanent horticultural plantings that will also improve drought resilience.

Eligibility for primary producers applies to:

- a. new water infrastructure purchased after 30 June 2018, or in the case of damaged infrastructure after 1 January 2022
- b. the purchase and installation, repair, or replacement of:
 - i. pipes
 - ii. water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering
 - iii. water pumps and associated water distribution systems
- c. the drilling of new stock and horticulture water bores and associated power supply such as generators
- d. desilting dams
- e. Other activities as agreed by the Commonwealth and consistent with the output and purpose of the Program.

Eligibility for horticultural farmers applies to:

- a. new water infrastructure purchased after 30 June 2019, or in the case of damaged infrastructure 31 December 2021
- b. the purchase and installation, repair, or replacement of:
 - i. the drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores and

- ii. desilting dams
- c. Other activities as agreed by the Commonwealth and consistent with the output and purpose of the Program

Eligibility for the rebate to cover expenses related to damaged water infrastructure applies to:

- f. natural disasters occurring after 12 October 2022
- g. repair or replacement of damaged infrastructure (limited to the items listed above)
- h. applications that do not include funds from insurance and other grants as part of the 75% contribution required of applicants.

5. Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply to:

- any new purchases made prior to 30 June 2018 or for damaged infrastructure, purchases made prior to 12 October 2022.
- water infrastructure purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock or permanent horticulture plantings, i.e. excludes water infrastructure associated with crop [pasture] or fodder irrigation; (i.e. non-permanent horticulture plantings).
- water infrastructure costs financed by the Australian Government or the Tasmanian Government under another program, other than a loan program.
- normal wages paid to an employee of your primary production enterprise or your self-assessed labour.
- construction of new dams or modification of an existing dam (except for desilting).
- other types of on-farm infrastructure that do not relate to improving water security.

6. Guidance for water infrastructure decision making

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that placement and design of water infrastructure, including infrastructure repairs, meets all relevant Tasmanian laws and permit and licensing requirements. Please refer to NRE Tas through FarmPoint on 1300 292 292 or farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or <https://nre.tas.gov.au/water> for any questions.

7. Assessment and Approval Process

Applications for a rebate under the Scheme must be made through SmartyGrants available at www.nre.tas.gov.au and include or attach the information and documentation specified.

Complete applications need to be received by NRE Tas by **31 December 2023**. No applications will be accepted after this date. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Complete applications will be processed in order of receipt. By submitting your completed application through SmartyGrants, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate. Providing inaccurate, false or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.

All works needs to be completed and all documented evidence including invoices, receipts, photos, etc received by **29 March 2024**. NRE Tas is unable to guarantee payment of rebates after this closing date.

What does a successful application look like?

A successful application:

- is submitted before the closing date and time.
- meets all eligibility criteria.

- demonstrates a good understanding of the purpose of the grant program.
- provides clear and well-structured answers to all questions.
- contains, where requested, quality documented evidence to support all claims made within the application.

8. Assessment and Approval Process

Applications will be assessed in order of receipt (except where an application is incomplete) and against the eligibility criteria. Where an application is incomplete, it will not be assessed until the applicant has supplied ALL the required information.

The Department may request further information from you, or any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in your application being rejected.

9. Other important information:

The Department reserves the right to revise these guidelines at any time. 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 your application if you are 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.

The Tasmanian Government, in conjunction with the Australian Government, may conduct an evaluation to determine the extent to which the Scheme has met its objectives. Rebate applicants and recipients may be requested to provide information to assist in auditing during the Scheme or the evaluation after the Scheme's completion.

False and misleading information

By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate and in doing so you confirm that the application does not include funds from insurance and other grants as part of 75% contribution required of applicants.

Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply. If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the funds.

10. Appealing a decision

The appeals process is designed to ensure that all applicants have been treated fairly and consistently in applying for Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania grants.

All requests must be in writing and should be addressed to the General Manager, Agriculture, Forestry and Water by email: farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or post: GPO Box 44 HOBART Tasmania 7001

Your request must be received within 28 days from the date of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania notifying you of the decision about your application. For further information about the process, contact Farmpoint, Ph 1300 292 292 or email: farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au

11. Taxation and financial implications

Applicants may wish to seek independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving the grant under the program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), prior to submitting an application. The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the ATO. While grants are typically

treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the recipient's particular circumstances.

12. Grant payments

If your application is successful, you will be required to have entered into a Grant Agreement and submitted a valid tax invoice for the amount of the rebate before the grant will be paid to you.

Applicants are asked for accurate bank account details at the time of applying to enable timely payment once the grant is approved. This bank account must be in the same name as the person, business or organisation that applied for the grant. You may be asked to provide a copy of your bank statement or a letter from their bank to confirm your bank account details.

13. Personal information protection

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. NRE Tas only collects personal information that is necessary for it to perform its functions and will only use or disclose this information for the purposes for which it was provided. For further information refer to: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/governance-policies-and-legislation/personal-information-protection-policy>

14. Disclaimer

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains. The Crown in Right of Tasmania accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise from anything contained in or omitted from or that may arise from the use of this document, and any person relying on this document and the information it contains does so at their own risk absolutely. The Crown in Right of Tasmania does not accept liability or responsibility for any loss incurred by an applicant that are in any way related to the program.