

# On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme guidelines

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Australian Government



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## Scheme guidelines

These On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme Guidelines are correct at the time of publishing. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (the department) reserves the right to amend, alter or change these Guidelines at any time, and it is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website. The Guidelines that apply to your application will be the Guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by the department.

While the department has taken all care in preparing these Guidelines, the department will not be liable in any way for any errors, omissions or variations to information in these Guidelines.

The department may cancel or suspend this Scheme should available funds be exhausted prior to the Scheme end date of 30 April 2022 or if the Australian Government determines that funds are required for another purpose.

## Application Form

Download the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme **Application Form** from the [Northern Territory Government website](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## Contact

For further information please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/farm-management/get-financial-help-farm-businesses/water-infrastructure-rebate>

## On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Scheme (the Scheme) is funded by the Australian Government and administered by the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (the department).

The Scheme provides financial support to primary producers whose properties have been affected by drought to manage the welfare of their livestock or in maintaining permanent horticultural plantings to improve drought resilience.

The Scheme helps with the cost of establishing new water infrastructure projects to supply water for animal welfare needs and to provide continued water requirements for permanent horticulture plantings. The support is in the form of a rebate of 25 percent of the cost of any approved water infrastructure projects. The maximum rebate per approved project is \$25,000.

Please note that submission of an application does not guarantee that you will be eligible for a rebate under the Scheme.

### The rebate

The rebate is for 25 percent of the total cost of purchase, delivery and installation of a new water infrastructure project for a genuine or imminent emergency animal welfare need or in maintaining permanent horticultural plantings. The minimum payment for each application is \$25. No payment will be made for any claims under this amount. The maximum rebate for each application is initially \$25,000 per property, per financial year.

### Water infrastructure

The **rebate applies to the purchase and installation** of operational water infrastructure, including:

- Pipes, water tanks and water troughs;
- Drilling of a new working ground water bore  
Note that a NT licensed driller listed on the NT Government's Water Act Licensing and Permit System webpage must do the drilling. Refer to [NT licensed drillers](#)<sup>2</sup> on the Northern Territory Government website.
- Water pumps and power supply used to run water pumps including generators and solar powered units;
- Other materials or equipment necessary to install the above;
- Freight associated with the purchase and installation of the equipment;
- Professional installation of the water infrastructure; and
- Desilting of dams.

Note:

- Applicants should obtain any permits for land or vegetation clearing prior to applying; and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://nt.gov.au/environment/water/bores-drilling-and-dams/about-water-drilling-licences/nt-licensed-drillers>

- It is the Applicant's responsibility to identify any sites of aboriginal or known conservation significance that may be affected by this development.

## Emergency animal welfare need

For the purposes of the Scheme, it is considered a genuine or imminent emergency animal welfare need when:

- There is a lack of available water for livestock that are grazing on your property; or
- The water that is available will be insufficient to sustain the livestock on the property; or
- There is a lack of available water for livestock within a reasonable walking distance of feed.

For the purposes of the Scheme, a reasonable walking distance is generally considered not less than 2 kilometres. The distance that livestock will travel from water depends on topography, and on the class and condition of the animals. Livestock will generally graze within a 2-to-3 kilometre radius of water and it is therefore reasonable to expect livestock to walk for 2 kilometres to access water.

Any watering points placed at a distance less than 4 kilometres apart would be considered excess to requirements unless the primary producer can provide evidence that demonstrates why their livestock cannot walk 2 kilometres.

In determining whether a property has an emergency animal welfare need you must provide information about the current emergency water situation, including the existing water infrastructure, watering procedures and watering points. You must also provide information on the steps you have undertaken to reduce the effects of drought and water shortages on your livestock and property, and provide detailed information on the new water infrastructure that you propose to install, or have installed, for the purposes of resolving your emergency animal welfare need.

Further information must be included with your application declaring that there is a genuine or imminent emergency animal welfare need on your property and that the water infrastructure you intend to purchase and install or that you have purchased and installed is required to resolve the water availability issue.

## Permanent horticultural plantings

A permanent horticultural planting refers to the growing of plants which produce crops for many seasons i.e. are not replanted after each harvest. This includes, for example, mangoes, exotic fruit (rambutan, lychees, jackfruit, durian), citrus, dates and grapes. It does not include annual plants or forestry species.

In determining whether a property has an emergency water requirement for permanent horticultural plantings you must provide information about the crop and its water requirements, the current water situation including the existing water infrastructure; and irrigation procedures.

You must also provide information on the steps you have undertaken to reduce the effects of drought and water shortages on your permanent plantings, and provide detailed information on the new water infrastructure that you propose to install, or have installed, for the purposes of addressing emergency water requirements for permanent planting.

Producers must comply with the conditions of individual Water Extraction Licenses. Refer to the Water Licence portal on the NT [Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security \(DEPWS\) website](https://depws.nt.gov.au/water/water-information-systems/water-licensing-portal)<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://depws.nt.gov.au/water/water-information-systems/water-licensing-portal>

## Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for participation in the Scheme you must meet all of the following criteria:

- **You are a primary producer.**  
For the purposes of the Scheme, a primary producer is a person or a partner in a partnership, company or trust who spends more than 50 per cent of their labour on, and derives more than 50 per cent of their gross income from, a primary production enterprise; and
- **You are a property owner, share-farmer or lessee** in the primary production industry; and
- **Your property has been affected by drought.**  
The department will assess areas considered to be affected by drought based on data including (but not limited to) rainfall deficiency maps provided by the Bureau of Meteorology, the department pastoral feed data, and other sources as required; and
- **You purchased the eligible water infrastructure on or after 1 July 2019** as evidenced by tax invoice, within 6 months of the date of application for the rebate; and
- Specific to your industry:

Livestock industry	Permanent plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>You are engaged in the livestock industry.</b> Livestock includes: crocodiles, cattle, buffalo, horses, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, deer, poultry and honey bees; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>You are engaged in the production of a permanent horticultural planting; and</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>You have not introduced any livestock on to the property</b> during the drought affected period, including any livestock taken for agistment; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The amount of available water will not meet demand</b> before the next expected inflow of water; and</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The water infrastructure is installed for livestock that you own</b> or for livestock that are permanently residing on your property; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The proposed work will help ensure that the on-farm water supply system for permanent horticultural plantings is more resilient to future dry seasonal conditions; and</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>You have purchased or are planning to purchase and install the water infrastructure for a genuine or imminent emergency animal welfare.</b> That is, where there is a lack of available water for grazing livestock that is within a reasonable walking distance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The water infrastructure will improve efficiency or reduce wastage.</b></li> </ul>

## Ineligibility

### Applications for the Scheme are ineligible when:

- Water infrastructure has been purchased and installed where there is not a genuine or imminent emergency animal welfare need, or the infrastructure does not increase resilience to future dry seasonal conditions;
- The water infrastructure purchased and installed is to replace existing water infrastructure on the property;
- Water infrastructure has been purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock or permanent horticultural plantings. For example, to provide water for seasonal crop irrigation, intensive livestock husbandry, human consumption, or household use;
- The water infrastructure purchased and installed is excessive or superfluous to requirements in resolving the animal welfare or permanent horticultural planting need;
- Water infrastructure project costs predate the application date by more than 6 months;

### The rebate does not apply to:

- Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour or machinery costs, such as the cost of fuel;
- Any costs or labour associated with establishing a new dam or making dams larger with the exception of desilting of dams;
- Any invoices from entities related to the Applicant. For example, water infrastructure purchased from family members of the Applicant or companies/partnerships owned by the Applicant or that the Applicant has an interest in;
- Any repairs or maintenance on existing water infrastructure;
- Any costs or labour that are excessive or superfluous to requirements;
- Any costs associated with drilling of dry or non-operational bores or test bores; and
- Any costs incurred after the earlier of 30 March 2022 and 6 months after the application date.

## Assessment

Applications will be assessed against eligibility criteria. The department reserves the right to request further information from you, or from any business or individuals, 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 the department refusing your application.

The department may consult with other NT Government agencies to assist in assessing your claim.

Applications submitted may be subject to audit by the department or its Agents in order to determine compliance with the Scheme Guidelines. A department officer may inspect your property or request further information from you as part of the application process.

## Processing times

The department aims to process applications within 21 working days of receipt. Incomplete claims or claims that do not clearly meet the eligibility requirements may take longer to process, and may be rendered invalid or ineligible.

To ensure your claim is processed as quickly as possible, please make sure that you meet the eligibility criteria and that you have provided all of the required information.

## Payment method

The department's preferred method of payment is direct electronic transfer into your bank account.

## Fraudulent applications

By signing the Application Form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and in supporting documentation is true and accurate. Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information maybe 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 rebate.

## Appeal and review process

If you are not satisfied with the decision of your application, then you may appeal the decision by writing to the Executive Director, Agriculture Branch of the department.