

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

ASSISTANCE MEASURES FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

This fact sheet provides information to assist Primary Producers with understanding eligible disaster assistance measures provided under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA).

Overview

In Western Australia, Primary Producer assistance measures are administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). Information can therefore also be found in the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements section on DPIRD's website.

Interest Rate Subsidy

Primary Producers may be eligible to receive an interest rate subsidy on new loans.

The new loan must be taken out by the Primary Producer for the purposes of repairing damaged assets or business carry-on costs incurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster. The loan must be provided by an Authorised Deposit taking Institution (ADI), such as a bank, building society or credit union.

The DRFAWA provides an interest rate subsidy, currently set at 4% with the subsidy payments:

- capped at a maximum of \$6,000 (being 4% of a loan maximum of \$150,000); and,
- a maximum period of ten (10) years, of which the first two (2) years may be free of capital repayments at the discretion of the ADI.

In cases where no capital repayments or minimal capital repayments are made from the third year onwards a 'notional' deduction of 1/10th of the original loan principal will be deducted for each year for which the subsidy is available.

DRFAWA will fund the interest rate subsidy, annually in advance, based upon the satisfactory submission of a claim form after the anniversary date of the loan commencement. The claim form must be supported by documented evidence of the loan balance on or shortly after the anniversary date.

Primary Producers that wish to apply for an interest rate subsidy are required to submit an online application via the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements section on DPIRD's website.

Primary Producers in receipt of the subsidy must notify DFES Recovery Funding of any changes to the loan arrangement immediately.

DPIRD will liaise with Primary Producers directly through the assessment process.

Freight subsidy

Section 4.3.2 (k) of the DRFAWA refers to a freight subsidy to Primary Producers whose assets have been significantly damaged.

The subsidy reimburses Primary Producers a maximum of 50% of the costs to the Primary Producer of transporting any of the following as a direct result of the eligible disaster:

- i. Livestock,
- ii. fodder or water for livestock; and,
- iii. building or fencing equipment or machinery

Fencing assistance

The Western Australian Government supports Primary Producers who have been directly impacted by an eligible disaster and have livestock on a property that borders a major road/rail transport corridor.

This assistance reimburses the Primary Producer 100% of the costs associated with any of the following:

- restoration/replacement of fencing (to pre-disaster standard) where the fencing has been deliberately dismantled or damaged due to counter disaster operation activities undertaken to combat the eligible disaster event; and/or
- reimbursement of the costs of materials only (to pre-disaster standard) to repair/replace boundary fencing damaged/lost as a direct result of the eligible disaster event, where the fencing adjoins a major road/rail transport corridor and where the roaming of livestock may present a danger to the travelling public (i.e., the aim being to preserve public safety).

In respect of the latter dot-point, for a claim to be considered under this measure the applicant must demonstrate to DPIRD's satisfaction that, at the time of the eligible disaster, the property was being used to hold or agist livestock. A property that was used solely for cropping purposes at the time of the eligible disaster event would not be eligible for fencing assistance under the DRFAWA.

As the intent of this measure is to ensure public safety, to be eligible, all works must be undertaken as soon as is practicable after the impact of the eligible disaster. It must also be noted that where a claimant has insurance and the insurance policy includes fencing, the claim must be lodged with the insurer and not via the DRFAWA.

Professional advice grant

Section 4.2.2 (g) of the DRFAWA provides emergency assistance for personal and financial counselling. In Western Australia this measure provides reimbursement of fees to a limit of \$1,500 to obtain professional advice directly relating to addressing issues arising from the eligible disaster. Advice may be obtained from a suitable qualified farm business consultant or a member of a professional accounting body. Advice may relate to business or financial matter, hydrological or soil conservation issues, feed analysis or other stock health issues. This grant is not available to meet the costs of normal business expenses or for employing professional advice for other purposes.

Eligibility

Primary production is defined as enterprises listed under the Australian New Zealand standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC) 1292.02 (revision 2.0).

To be considered eligible for any of the assistance measures offered by the DRFAWA, the business entity (applicant) must comply with definition of a Primary Producer, that being an individual, partnership, trust or company that:


- has a right or interest in a primary production enterprise; and
- contributes part of their labour and capital to the primary production enterprise (at least one member of the business must devote at least 75% of their labour to the primary production enterprise); and
- derives at least 50% of their income from the primary production enterprise.

Further information regarding assistance including the eligibility criteria an applicant would need to meet is detailed in the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements section on DPIRD's website.

Further information and contacts


The DRFAWA, fact sheets and other related documents are available on the DFES website in the Recovery Funding section, including a DRFAWA Key Terms fact sheet that includes definitions.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development:


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 Click [here](#)

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