



# Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) Scheme Round 2

## 1. Objective

To provide funding for one-off rebates to eligible primary producers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs, permanent planting needs and improves resilience to drought.

## 2. Assistance available

### EWIR Round 1 (closed)

**Applications:** 1 January 2019 to 14 May 2020  
**For works undertaken:** from 1 July 2018  
from 1 July 2019 for horticulturalists

- Round 1 applications will be assessed under the guidelines in force at that time.
- You are eligible for Round 1 assistance if you submitted an application after 1 January 2019 and before 2 October 2020 and have works related to the project for which you applied and that you have completed, or will complete within three (3) months of confirmation of your application being approved.
- The Commonwealth and NSW Government refer to these as 'legacy applications'.
- You do not need to do anything in relation to your Round 1 application – the RAA will contact you.
- If you submitted an application before 2 October 2020 for a project that you cannot complete, you can reapply for Round 2, for a different project in line with Round 2 guidelines.

### EWIR Round 2

**Applications:** Open 1 July 2021  
Close date for applications to be confirmed  
**For works undertaken:** from 1 July 2018  
from 1 July 2019 for horticulturalists

- **Note:** see page 5 of these guidelines for an overview of the key milestones for this program.
- You should visit the RAA website on a regular basis for the latest information regarding the close dates, noting:
- Closure of the program is at the discretion of the RAA and you are encouraged to apply as early as possible.
  - The RAA will endeavour, but is not obliged, to provide advance notification of an early closure of the program.
  - In the event of an early close, RAA will pay invoices ranked by date received, up to the allocated funding. The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. No rebates will be offered beyond the allocated funding.
  - An applicant's unawareness of, or lack of notification by RAA, of an early closure of the program will not be grounds for consideration of applications or invoices submitted after the program officially ends.
  - Round 2 applications will be assessed under these guidelines.
  - Round 2 includes applicants who have never taken up EWIR before, or it can include applicants who exhausted their approved funds from Round 1, or who are undertaking a different project to that applied for in Round 1.
  - The rebate is 25 per cent of the cost of purchase, delivery and if applicable, the labour cost to engage a person to install water infrastructure for animal welfare needs or drought resilience.
  - The maximum that can be claimed is \$25,000 per farm enterprise and several claims can be made up to that sum, under the one application.



### 3. Eligibility

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To apply for this rebate the following conditions must be met:

- a) *You* are a property owner, share-farmer or lessee in the grazing industry (as confirmed by your Land and Stock Return);
- b) *Your* business operates as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company;
- c) Your business is identified by the Australian Taxation Office as a primary producer, and has an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- d) *Your* property has been at risk of, an emergency animal welfare need or you have experienced other negative impacts from drought\*\* because of a lack of water infrastructure.
- e) As the owner and operator, you earn more than 50% of your gross income from your primary production enterprise under normal seasonal circumstances; OR  
*You* are classified as a “new entrant”, meaning that you have been operating your farm business for between 12 months to three years and more than 50% of your gross income will be derived from the farm business within three years of the date of the application. The applications of new entrants will be considered on a case by case basis.
- f) *You* do not have gross off farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000 excluding funds in a registered superannuation fund.
- g) *You* installed or plan to install, water infrastructure for animal welfare needs or drought resilience activities.
- h) *You* can demonstrate that the work will help ensure that stock water is available into the future to prepare for animal welfare concerns and improve drought resilience.
- i) The water infrastructure is or will be installed for livestock permanently residing on your property.
- j) Primary producers will be eligible to apply through this program (Round 2) for the rebates which will cover eligible expenses that have not already been claimed, and that were incurred since 1 July 2018.

The scheme is also available to horticulturalists with permanent plantings. These horticulturalists can apply for water infrastructure purchased after 30 June 2019 including:

- k) the purchase and drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores and
- l) desilting of dams.

### 4. Additional eligibility requirements and claiming process

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- a) *You* can submit an application for works undertaken prior to application and include invoices for reimbursement at that point, or, you could obtain approval of your application and then submit claims after that time, noting that all claims and invoices must have been submitted within three (3) months of approval. As funding may be exhausted and the program may close, the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) recommends you submit an application prior to commencing the works.
- b) *You* must permit the RAA or other person authorised by the RAA to enter the property to enable inspection of the works.
- c) Payments will be made on receipt of eligible tax invoices.

Invoices submitted in relation to this application may not be used to secure funding under any other NSW State Government Scheme.



## 5. Eligible activities

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- 5.1 This rebate applies to the purchase and installation of emergency water infrastructure after 1 July 2018 for livestock and drought resilience for primary producers and includes the purchase and installation of:
- Pipes.
  - Water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering.
  - Water pumps.
  - De-silting dams, drilling of new stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators.
  - Construction of new dams for stock use only, noting that all required work approvals and environmental permits must be obtained prior to commencing work.
  - Repair or improvement of existing stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators.
  - Solar systems support water infrastructure.
  - Other materials or equipment necessary to install the above excluding purchase of machinery.
  - Freight components to purchase and install the equipment outlined in Section 5.
  - Professional installation costs to install the water infrastructure.
- 5.2 Eligibility for the rebate for horticulture farmers with permanent plantings applies to water infrastructure purchased after 30 June 2019 that includes the purchase and installation of:
- New horticulture groundwater bores;
  - Desilting dams.

## 6. Ineligible activities

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- Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed where there is not an emergency animal welfare need or drought resilience preparedness requirement, or the potential for this need, aside from horticulturalists with permanent plantings where provisions from section 3k and 3l relate.
- Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock, aside from horticulturalists with permanent plantings.
- Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour costs.

## 7. Guidelines

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- These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.
- RAA 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 prior to application.
- The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by RAA.

## 8. Assessment

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- Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.
- When asking for financial information, the RAA will ask for personal tax returns in addition to financial information for all business entities with which the applicant has a formal interest including companies, partnerships and self-managed super funds. The RAA may draw on financial information provided for previous approved applications.
- RAA reserves the right to request further information from you or from 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 RAA refusing your application.
- RAA reserves the right to refuse an application where eligibility criteria are not met, or where the applicant does not or cannot provide sufficient information for the RAA to determine if eligibility criteria have been met.



- e) Applications submitted may be subject to audit by RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.
- f) The RAA can put an application on hold where the applicant is under investigation or has been charged in relation to the fraudulent receipt of funds under this or other RAA programs.
- g) Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.
- h) Applicants should note that past financial assistance under this program or any other program is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this program.
- i) Before applying for financial assistance under this program, applicants should seek advice from their legal, business or financial advisers in relation to the tax implications of this financial assistance.

## 9. Fraudulent claims

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- a) By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate.
- b) Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.
- c) 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. Claiming period

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Applicants must submit all invoices and claim all funds within three (3) months of approval of the application.

## 11. Information required by the RAA

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Applicants must submit all invoices and claim all funds within three (3) months of approval of the application.

Please apply online at:

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/emergency-water-infrastructure-rebate-scheme>

If you need assistance with submitting your application, please contact us per below.

Phone: 1800 678 593

Email: [rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au)

If you have difficulty understanding these guidelines or completing the application form you should seek the assistance of your rural/financial counsellor, business advisor, accountant or a trusted family member/friend.

If you need assistance with interpreting or translating, please contact Multicultural NSW on 1300 651 500 or email [languageservices@multicultural.nsw.gov.au](mailto:languageservices@multicultural.nsw.gov.au).

Please check the RAA website for latest information regarding the closing date.

## 12. Definitions

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**Approval** – your application will be approved based on your eligibility with the criteria listed in 3) above. Your invoices will then be approved based on their eligibility with the criteria listed in 5) above. In the event of an early close, RAA will pay invoices ranked by date received, up to the allocated funding. An approved application does not imply an approved invoice.

**Permanent plantings** - crops that are productive for many seasons rather than being planted after every harvest. Such crops might include: pome and stone fruit, vines, figs, kiwi, berry bushes and shrubs (e.g. raspberries, gooseberries, elderberries) nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts) other permanent crops (asparagus, artichokes, hops, cut roses).



**You and Your** in the context of these guidelines and the related application process refers to the applicant and can be taken to refer to a sole trader, company, partnership or trust. The RAA takes you as having authority to make application on behalf of the entity applying.

## Notes

These guidelines have been drafted with reference to terms used in the glossary found at this location.  
<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/loans/glossary-of-terms>

Information about how the NSW Government measures and reports drought is shown at this link:  
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/drought/drought-in-nsw>

## Helpful Hint

NSW DPI's Farm Tracker App is a free tool that can help you take stock of seasonal conditions on your farm. You can find it in the app store of your Apple or Android phone.

