

South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate Scheme

Guidelines

Purpose

The South Australian Government is offering a range of drought assistance to support eligible primary producers to assist with farm business related costs. This includes provision of a South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate.

The South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate Scheme provides funding to eligible applicants to access a rebate of up to **50%** (and no more than **\$3,500/financial year**) of South Australian pastoral lease rent.

Eligible applicants can access the rebate for each of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

Rebates will be available for both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial year and are subject to funding being available. Eligible applicants will need to apply for each financial year.

The Program opened on 10 December 2019 and will close on 30 June 2021.

Applicant Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for the Program?

To be eligible to access funding under the Program:

- a) You must be in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for the current financial year and able to provide evidence of this. Evidence can include an income statement from Centrelink or a copy of your most recent concession card that identifies that you are in receipt of Farm Household Allowance.
- b) You must be directly associated with a farming business and your farming business be based in South Australia.
- c) You operate as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company.

If you are seeking payment after the pastoral lease rent invoice has been paid, you must provide evidence that the invoice has been paid.

Applicants for the South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent rebate can access the rebate prior to **OR** following payment of the invoice.

If the South Australian pastoral lease rent has not yet been paid, you can submit your application for the rebate. The approved value will be deducted from the South Australian pastoral lease rent and you will be sent an updated invoice.

If you are seeking re-imburement for the rebate after you have paid your South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent you must provide evidence of the payment.

Applicants must meet overall eligibility criteria for the Program as well as satisfying specific eligibility criteria.

The Applicant must:

- Be a legal entity capable of entering into a Grant Agreement with the Minister and/or Delegate
- Have a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST
- Have not received funding from another South Australian/Australian Government program in respect of the same activities.

Who is not eligible for the Program?

You will not be eligible to apply for funding under the Program if:

- Your Pastoral Lease rent is not from 2019/20 or 2020/21 financial years.
- Someone is not an approved recipient of FHA 2019/20 or 2020/21.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be reviewed against the assessment criteria outlined in these Guidelines. PIRSA reserves the right to request further information from you or from any party you have engaged in connection with the making of your Application to assist with the assessment of your Application or to verify any information provided in your Application.

Submitted Applications may be subject to audit by to determine compliance with Guidelines.

The Minister (or Delegate) will make the final decision on approval of all Applications.

Successful Applicants will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Minister.

Eligibility Criteria

This rebate applies to ongoing financial commitments associated with South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent payments. Funding will be offered to a maximum of 50% of a single pastoral lease rent notice up to 50 % (and a maximum of \$3500) for each of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

Eligible applicants will need to reapply for the rebate if they wish to access a second year of funding.

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) provides assistance to farming families experiencing financial hardship. The program focuses on helping farmers make important decisions to improve their long-term financial situation.

To check your eligibility and apply visit

<https://www.business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs/Farm-Household-Allowance-Program>

If you would like to advice on your eligibility for Farm Household Allowance or are looking for other farm business support you may like to contact the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

Phone 1800 836 211

www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au/RFCS .

Ineligible Costs

The Program will not provide funding for:

- Applicants who are not in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for the current financial year.
- Any other ongoing financial obligation that the Applicant has.

- Rebates that are not directly associated with pastoral business.
- Rebates for special costs such as service charges, NRM levies, fines and interest and arrears from previous years.

Supporting Documentation

The following supporting documentation must be attached to your application:

- A copy of your South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent invoice. If you are seeking a re-imburement for payment you must provide evidence that you have paid the invoice. If you are seeking a deduction from your invoice prior to payment, you must still include a copy of your South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent invoice with your application.
- Evidence that you are in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for the current financial year. This can include a letter or copy of your Income Statement from Centrelink, or a copy of your concession card demonstrating that you are in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for the current financial year.

Clarifications

As part of the assessment, PIRSA may request further information or clarification of information provided in your Application. PIRSA's primary mode of communication with Applicants is by email.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The rebate claimable under the Program is up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent up to a rebate value of \$3,500 for each of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

All costs claimed under the Program must have been incurred from 1 July 2019. To receive the maximum 50% rebate, you must have incurred costs of \$7,000 or more to pay the South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent since 1 July 2019.

To access the South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate you can apply for an immediate reduction in your lease payment, in which case a new invoice will be issued once the rebate has been approved, **OR** you can apply for the rebate once you have made the payment.

Applicants are required to warrant that the information provided in the application form is true and correct in every particular.

If you wish to access the rebate for both financial years that the rebate is available you will need to apply in each financial year.

Before payment of the rebate is made, you will be required to submit a tax invoice to PIRSA for the amount of the rebate (as approved by PIRSA).

Other Requirements

Applicants must:

- retain all tax invoices for expenditure in relation to which the Application is made for at least two years following the Application

- consent to a PIRSA officer or delegate, if required, undertaking an inspection of the property and auditing records to verify the claim; and conducting an inspection and/or audit after the rebate has been paid to verify the monies have been utilised for the intended purpose.

Note: Applicants should seek independent financial advice to understand their tax obligations. The grant may be considered as assessable income and must be declared to the Australian Taxation Office as part of your taxation reporting. Grants may be subject to GST and income tax.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

Applicants should carefully consider activities against the eligibility criteria set out in this document before submitting an Application. Enquiries are welcome at any time.

The application form can be found on the PIRSA Drought Support Program website https://pir.sa.gov.au/grants_and_assistance/drought_support/financial_assistance.

Applicants must submit an Application together with all supporting documentation to PIRSA electronically using the Program application form no later than 5:00pm. (ACST) on Friday 30 May 2021.

PIRSA.GrantsEnquiries@sa.gov.au

Late applications will not be accepted.

Alternatively, a signed original copy of the application and supporting documentation may be sent to:

SA Drought Support Package – South Australian Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate Scheme
PIRSA – Rural Solutions SA
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

and postmarked no later than 5:00pm. (ACST) 14 May 2021.

Alternatively, completed applications can be submitted to a PIRSA Office at the following locations:

- Port Augusta - 12 Tassie Street, Port Augusta
- Clare - 155 Main North Road, Clare
- Port Lincoln - 1 Hindmarsh Street, Port Lincoln
- Loxton - Bookpurnong Road, Loxton
- Murray Bridge - Bremer Road, Murray Bridge
- Kingscote - 56 Dauncey Street, Kingscote
- Struan - 74 Struan House Road, Riddoch Highway, Struan
- Mount Gambier - 9 Krummel Street, Mount Gambier

If submitted at a PIRSA office, staff will undertake a preliminary check to confirm that the application is completed and that you have provided all relevant supporting documentation.

Prior to relevant closing time, the Minister (or Delegate) reserves the right to:

- extend the application closing time

- vary a requirement of the Program
- terminate the Program

The Minister (or Delegate) further reserves the right to:

- clarify any aspect of an Application after the closing time
- make enquiries of any person or entity to obtain information about the Applicant and its Application
- propose revised or replacement Grant Agreement /contract terms, including substitution for, or in addition to, the terms and conditions included within a Grant Agreement.

Applicants should understand their legal rights and obligations under this Program. Before applying for financial assistance under this Program or making any decision to accept a grant, Applicants should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine their eligibility for and the terms of the financial assistance.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact: **Drought Support Program**

Department of Primary Industries and Regions Telephone: 1800 931 314

Email: PIRSA.drought@sa.gov.au