

## ON-FARM EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE SCHEME SCHEME GUIDELINES

### About the Scheme

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are offering a rebate to drought affected farmers who invest in urgently-needed on-farm water infrastructure that addresses the needs of grazing livestock or assists in maintaining existing permanent horticultural plantings. The rebate funding is being made available from an allocation from the Australian Government.

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 on-farm water infrastructure that improves resilience to drought.

The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) is available for the purchase and installation of emergency water infrastructure for grazing livestock and for permanent horticultural plantings.

The Scheme is available to eligible farm businesses in the following Local Government Areas:

Alpine	Loddon
Benalla	Mildura
Buloke	Moira
Campaspe	Northern Grampians
East Gippsland	Strathbogie
Gannawarra	Swan Hill
Greater Bendigo	Towong
Greater Shepparton	Wangaratta
Hindmarsh	Wellington
Horsham	Wodonga
Indigo	Yarriambiack

Farm businesses outside of the above Local Government Areas can make an application if they can demonstrate a critical water need resulting from current seasonal conditions. These applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.



**Australian Government**  
Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources

 **RURAL FINANCE**

## SCHEME OBJECTIVE

The Scheme will provide funding for one-off rebates to eligible primary producers and horticultural farmers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water infrastructure that addresses the needs of grazing livestock or existing permanent horticultural plantings and improves resilience to drought.

## ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The rebate is 25 per cent of the cost of purchase, delivery and/or professional installation of on-farm water infrastructure for animal welfare needs or maintaining existing permanent horticultural plantings and to improve resilience to drought. The maximum rebate that can be claimed is \$25,000 (GST exclusive) per farm enterprise.

The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. No rebates will be offered beyond the allocated Australian Government funding of \$5 million (ex GST). The Scheme will close on 30 June 2020 or when the funding is fully allocated, whichever comes first.

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Water infrastructure must be purchased and installed for a genuine emergency animal welfare or for maintaining existing permanent horticultural plantings and to improve drought resilience.

### Grazing livestock

Eligible water infrastructure for grazing livestock includes:

- a. Pipes
- b. Water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering
- c. Water pumps
- d. Drilling of new stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators, desalination plants
- e. Desilting works of existing stock and domestic dams, where you can demonstrate that area of the property does not have access to suitable groundwater

- f. Other materials or equipment necessary to install the above excluding purchase of machinery
- g. Any freight component to purchase and install the equipment
- h. The professional installation costs to install the water infrastructure.

### Permanent horticultural plantings

Eligible water infrastructure for permanent horticultural plantings includes:

- a. Drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores
- b. Desilting dams

All appropriate statutory approvals and licences must be obtained for the eligible water infrastructure activities, where applicable. This is the responsibility of the farm business.

## INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The Scheme will not provide funding for (but is not limited to):

- a. Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed where there is not an emergency animal need or permanent horticultural planting need or the potential for this need
- b. Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock or an existing permanent horticultural planting
- c. Water infrastructure for irrigation (including pasture, crop or fodder irrigation)
- d. Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labor or transport costs
- e. Other types of on-farm infrastructure that do not relate to water improvements
- f. Activities for livestock to which you have made a financial commitment prior to 1 July 2018.
- g. Activities for permanent horticultural plantings to which you have made a financial commitment prior to 1 July 2019.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to access funding under the Scheme:

- a. You are a property owner, share farmer or lease holder undertaking grazing livestock production or permanent horticulture.
- b. Your property is located in an eligible Local Government Area, OR  

You can provide evidence of severely depleted on-farm water storage or water source that could result in an animal welfare need or loss of permanent horticultural plantings. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- c. You are a primary producer, and as the owner and operator:
  - i. You are registered as a primary producer with the Australian Tax Office and have an ABN and are registered for GST
  - ii. You have a right or interest in the land for the purposes of primary production
  - iii. You contribute a significant part of your labor and capital to the farming enterprise, and under normal business conditions, you earn more than 51 per cent of your individual income from the farming enterprise<sup>1</sup> AND/OR
  - iv. You commenced your farming operation between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2019 and 50 per cent of your gross income will be derived from your Primary Production Business within three years of the date of your Application.  
Eligibility of new entrants will be considered on a case-by case basis.
- d. You purchased the eligible water infrastructure for livestock on or after the **1 July 2018**.
- e. You purchased the eligible water infrastructure for permanent horticultural plantings on or after the **1 July 2019**.

- f. You can demonstrate that your property has, or is at risk of, an emergency animal welfare or permanent horticultural planting need, which could include:
  - v. Water is currently being carted or about to be carted onto your property to supply livestock or permanent plantings where water supply has run out; or
  - vi. Your property could be reasonably expected to run out of water before the next expected inflow of water; or
  - vii. The work will help ensure that the on-farm water supply system for grazing livestock or permanent horticultural plantings is more resilient to future dry seasonal conditions.

Applicants that have received, have in-principle approval or intend to apply for a Victorian Government On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grant are also eligible to apply for the rebate for eligible water infrastructure under this Scheme, subject to meeting the Scheme eligibility requirements. Approval for the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants does not guarantee eligibility for this Scheme.

<sup>1</sup> As a guide it is anticipated that farm turnover would exceed \$50,000 per annum under normal business conditions. Normal business conditions refer to a year with no adverse climatic conditions (drought/flood/fire) in which average yields/productivity is achieved. Normal year income is based on this productivity and long-term achievable commodity prices.

## APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applicants should carefully consider activities against the eligibility criteria set out in the Guidelines before submitting an Application.

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.

Rural Finance and/or Agriculture Victoria reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing the Application and to verify any information provided in your Application.

Applications submitted may be subject to an audit to determine compliance with the Scheme Guidelines.

Applications for rebates must be made on the appropriate application form and be accompanied by the documentation stated in the application form.

Complete Applications will be processed in order of receipt.

By signing the application form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate.

Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.

## REBATE ADMINISTRATION PROCESS:

**Infrastructure that has been purchased since 1 July 2018 for livestock producers and 1 July 2019 for horticulture farmers<sup>2</sup> but PRIOR to the time of submitting this Application**

Complete application form including supplying all supporting documentation.

Applicants are required to supply tax invoices and receipts for all rebate claims and photos of completed infrastructure implemented (or other evidence of installation).

Approval or rejection of the application will be communicated to the applicant.

On approval, payment of the approved amount will be arranged and processed as soon as possible via electronic funds transfer to the applicant's nominated account.

**Proposed new infrastructure purchases**

Complete application form including supplying all supporting documentation.

Applicants are required to supply a quotation for the proposed water infrastructure investment with details of your current water and proposed water infrastructure placement.

'In-principle' approval or rejection of the application will be communicated to the applicant.

On receiving written 'in-principle' approval, applicants are required to purchase infrastructure investment within three months of the date of approval.

On completion of the water infrastructure project, grant recipients are required to forward paid tax invoices/s for all rebate claims and photos of completed infrastructure implemented (or other evidence of installation) to Rural Finance. The grant recipient must pay for the project and/or activity initially and then Rural Finance will forward payment of the grant amount on completion.

Payment of the approved amount will be arranged and processed as soon as possible via electronic funds transfer to the applicant's nominated account.

<sup>2</sup> There is no guarantee that infrastructure already purchased will be provided the rebate. All eligibility will need to be met prior to approval.

## GUIDANCE FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DECISION MAKING

Additional statutory approvals may be required for some activities such as needing a "take and use" licence for some bores.

Fact sheets about on-farm water management and farm management practices can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website: [agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/drought/managing-resources-in-drought](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/drought/managing-resources-in-drought)

For more information on accessing groundwater, please contact your local water authority, or visit their website.

### Goulburn-Murray Water

Email [info@gmwater.com.au](mailto:info@gmwater.com.au)

or phone GMW on 1800 013 357.

[gmwater.com.au/customer-services/forms](http://gmwater.com.au/customer-services/forms)

### Southern Rural Water

Email [srw@srw.com.au](mailto:srw@srw.com.au)

or phone SRW on 1300 360 117

[srw.com.au/customers/forms/](http://srw.com.au/customers/forms/)

### Grampians-Wimmera Mallee Water

Email [info@gwmwater.org.au](mailto:info@gwmwater.org.au)

or phone GWMWater 1300 659 961

[gwmwater.org.au/](http://gwmwater.org.au/)

### Lower Murray Water

Phone (03) 5051 3400

[lmw.vic.gov.au/contact-us/](http://lmw.vic.gov.au/contact-us/)

Information on emergency water supply points can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website: [water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points](http://water.vic.gov.au/groundwater/emergency-water-supply-points)

Information on bore construction licenses for stock and domestic purposes can be found on the Victorian Water Register website: [waterregister.vic.gov.au/water-trading/my-water](http://waterregister.vic.gov.au/water-trading/my-water)

Farmers are required to ensure that placement and design of water infrastructure meets relevant Victorian laws and that best practice advice is observed, where relevant.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to use business and farm plans to inform their broader infrastructure improvements.

## REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

The Scheme Guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.

Agriculture Victoria, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture may review and amend these Scheme Guidelines at any time.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Rural Finance

Telephone: 1800 260 425

Email: [governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au)

Web: [ruralfinance.com.au](http://ruralfinance.com.au)

Postal address: GPO Box 1313, Bendigo Central, Victoria 3552

### Agriculture Victoria

For more information about other drought support being provided by the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government, please contact Agriculture Victoria.

A range of other support is available to farmers affected by drought and potential applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in these programs.

Telephone: 136 186

Email: [drought.support@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:drought.support@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

Web: [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons)

## EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME

The Victorian 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.

## PUBLICITY

Rebate recipients may be asked to assist Agriculture Victoria in promotion of the Scheme. This may include involvement in media releases, case studies or promotional events and activities.

Agriculture Victoria may request recipients to fact check any text and seek all relevant approvals in order for Agriculture Victoria to use any imagery provided by the recipient associated with the Scheme prior to the publication of any such promotional materials.

Recipients must not make any public announcement or issue any press release regarding the receipt of a rebate without the prior written approval of Agriculture Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria may publicise the benefits accruing to the recipient and/or the State of Victoria associated with the provision of an On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Any personal information provided by the Applicant or a third party in an application will be collected by Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria for the purpose of administration of the Scheme. This information may be provided to other Victorian Government bodies for the purpose of assessing On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Grant applications.

Data gathered through assessments may be compiled, aggregated and made anonymous by Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria for Scheme reporting, evaluation and research purposes.

Any personal information collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and other applicable laws.

Agriculture Victoria is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. Agriculture Victoria's Privacy Policy can be found online at [economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au](http://economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au). Enquiries about access to information should be directed to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions' Privacy Unit by phone on (03) 9651 9749 or email [privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au).