

South Australian Council Rate Rebate Scheme

Guidelines

Purpose

The South Australian Government is offering a range of drought assistance measures to support eligible primary producers to assist with farm business related costs. This includes a rebate for South Australian Local Government Council Rates.

The Council Rate Rebate Scheme provides funding to eligible applicants to access a rebate of up to **50%** (and no more than **\$7,500** / financial year) of council rates. (Multiple council rates notices can be included up to a max of \$7,500 / financial year).

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

If you are eligible and you wish to claim the rebate for both financial years, you may apply when you can provide evidence that council rates have been paid for the entire financial year, **OR** if you pay your council rates quarterly, you can apply for the rebate each quarter, once you can provide evidence that the council rates have been paid. The maximum payment per financial year is up to 50% (and no more than \$7,500/financial year).

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

The Program was announced on 10 December 2019 and will close on 31 May 2021.

Eligibility Criteria

Who is eligible to apply for the Program?

To be eligible to access funding under the Program applicants:

- a) Must be in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance (supported by evidence) for the same financial year as the Council Rates rebate is applied for. Evidence can include an income statement from Centrelink or a copy of your most recent concession card that identifies that the applicant(s) are in receipt of Farm Household Allowance.
- b) Must be directly associated with a farming business based in South Australia.
- c) Operate as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company.

Applicants may apply for the rebate for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years and may be reimbursed on a quarterly, 6 monthly or on an annual basis. Evidence of payment must be provided relating to 2019/20 and/or 2020/21 Council Rates Notices.

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

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 Government program in respect of the same activities.

Who is not eligible for the Program?

Applicants will not be eligible for funding under the Program if they:

- Are not in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for the financial year relating to the Council Rates Notice for 2019/20 or 2020/21 and/or;
- Are not primary producers operating in South Australia

Farm Household Allowance Requirement

To check your Farm Household Allowance 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 .

Financial Support

The rebate claimable under the Program is 50% (up to a maximum value of \$7500 per financial year) of a farm business Council Rates Notice for 2019-20 and 2020-21. (Multiple council rates notices can be included within the same application up to a max of \$7,500/financial year). For example, if you are in receipt of FHA and your farm business council rates are \$15,000 per annum, you would be eligible for the full 50% rebate of \$7,500 per financial year.

Eligible applicants for 2019/20 will need to re-apply for the rebate if they wish to access a second rebate of funding for 2020/21.

Only one application is required each financial year. Evidence of payments may be submitted at the time of the application or quarterly, every 6 months or annually.

If you wish to claim the rebate for 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years, you may apply when you can provide evidence that all rates have been paid in full.

Payment of the rebate will be made following an assessment of the Application, including receipt of evidence of eligibility.

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

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).

Note: Applicants should seek independent financial advice to understand their tax obligations. The rebate 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.

This rebate applies to assist financial commitments associated with South Australian Local Government Council Rate payments. Funding will be offered to a maximum of 50% of Council Rates (up to a value of \$7,500 / financial year). (Multiple council rates notices within the same application can be included up to a max of \$7,500 / financial year).

Applicants seeking the 50% rebate must be in receipt of the Farm Household Allowance for the same financial year as the Council Rates Notice for 2019/20 or 2020/21. The Farm Household Allowance provides assistance to farming families experiencing financial hardship. The program focuses on helping farmers make important decisions to improve their long-term financial situation.

Ineligible for Rebate

The Program will not provide funding for:

- Rebates for South Australian Council Rates relating to: service charges, NRM levies, fines and interest and arrears from previous financial years.

Application Submission

Applicants should carefully consider the eligibility criteria set out in this document before submitting an Application. Enquiries are welcome at any time up until 31 May 2021.

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 seeking a rebate for 2019/20 or 2020/21 may submit an application together with all supporting documentation to PIRSA electronically using the program application form for no later than 5:00pm (ACST) on Friday 31 May 2021. Late applications will not be accepted.

Email applications to: PIRSA.GrantsEnquiries@sa.gov.au

Alternatively, a signed original copy of the application and supporting documentation may be sent (post marked no later than 5:00pm (ACST) 31 May 2021) to:

SA Drought Support Program – Council Rate Rebate Scheme
PIRSA – Rural Solutions SA
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Applications can also be submitted to a PIRSA Office at the following locations:

- Nuriootpa – Research Road, Nuriootpa
- 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 complete and that you have provided all relevant supporting documentation.

Assessment of Applications

- Applications will be reviewed against the eligibility criteria outlined in these Guidelines.
- PIRSA reserves the right to request further information from applicants or from any party engaged in connection with the preparation of the Application to assist with the assessment 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.

Further Information

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

Department of Primary Industries and Regions Telephone: 1800 93 13 14

Email: PIRSA.drought@sa.gov.au