

## **Natural Disaster Relief Scheme Grants**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (Primary Producers)**

#### **August 2016 Inland Floods**

**Q1. Who is eligible?**

Primary producers in the Local Government Areas of Bland, Bogan, Forbes, Lachlan, Narromine, Parkes and Warren who have suffered direct damage as a result of the August 2016 Inland Floods.

**Q2. What is the grant for?**

The clean-up and immediate restoration costs resulting from the August 2016 Inland Floods.

**Q3. Is there an assessment of the damage?**

Yes, you will be required to provide quotes/estimates and/or tax invoices/receipts, dated after the date of the August 2016 Inland Floods, for costs incurred.

**Q4. Can a company or incorporated body apply?**

Yes. But as with individuals, the company must have a right or interest in the land used for the purpose of a farm enterprise and derive more than half of its income from the farm enterprise, however cannot be a publicly listed company.

**Q5. Do I have to complete all expenditure before I apply?**

Multiple claims can be made – but the total of all claims for an individual must not exceed \$15,000 for the August 2016 Inland Floods.

**Q6. What damage is included?**

It covers all damage not covered by insurance sustained as a result of August 2016 Inland Floods .

**Q7. Am I still eligible for assistance if I have insurance?**

If you have insurance in respect of your farm business it is essential for you to lodge a claim against your policy in respect of any loss or damage you have suffered. You are required to provide a copy of your insurance claim with your application to the Authority.

**Q8. How do I know if my farm is covered?**

Your farm must be in a Local Government Area that is eligible for grant assistance, i.e. the Local Government Areas of Bland, Bogan, Forbes, Lachlan, Narromine, Parkes and Warren.

**Q9. My Local Government Area is not eligible for Recovery Grant Assistance. Why?**

The NSW Government considered the Impact Assessment Reports provided by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and other lead agencies and, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Management and NSW Treasury, determined the 7 LGAs announced met the funding criteria established under the national Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement Guidelines.

We are not aware if any other LGAs are being considered.

**Q10. When is the cut-off date for lodging applications?**

Applications must be received by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority no later than the closing date.

Applications received after the advertised application period closing date will not be accepted.

Your application must be received by the Authority **on or before 19 June 2017**.

**Q11. Does the grant cover loss of income as a result of the August 2016 Inland Floods?**

No.

**Q12. What is covered?**

Costs of removing dead livestock, purchasing fodder and re-sowing perennial pastures.

Also damage to farm buildings, fencing, infrastructure (including damage to property access and internal roads) and equipment and/or plant (cost of replacing the same item damaged/destroyed by the August 2016 Inland Floods).

Please note – should you have also claimed for the cost of transporting fodder for stock, or transporting stock to agistment through the Rebate on Road Transport only 50% of these costs will be considered to be an eligible expense under this scheme.

**Q13. What is NOT covered?**

- damage to dwellings
- damages covered by insurance
- loss of potential income from destroyed crops / livestock
- cost of using your own labour, your existing staff or your own equipment
- all capital items purchased after the August 2016 Inland Floods
- costs to upgrade/improve damaged areas/items

**Q14. Are animals lost in the flood covered?**

Only the costs of disposing of dead animals.

**Q15. Would sowing replacement pastures be covered?**

Yes, if the pasture that was there before the August 2016 Inland Floods is lost and the same or similar pasture is being re-established.

**Q16. Does the grant cover cleaning up a destroyed crop?**

Yes – removal of surface debris.

**Q17. The requirement for at least 50% of total gross income to be derived under normal circumstances from primary production - how is this calculated?**

This is based on copies of your latest personal and farm business financial statements and taxation returns. The proportion is calculated on gross income from all sources.

Should you consider that your latest personal and farm business financial statements and taxation returns do not reflect your normal business activity you are encouraged to provide additional information to assist with our assessment of your eligibility.

**Q18. Is GST included in any payment received?**

No – the GST component of any invoices received is able to be claimed on completion of your Business Activity Statement (BAS). The Authority will NOT issue a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) on payment of the grant and you should retain the 'Payment Advice' that is forwarded as a record for taxation purposes.

**Q19. Should the grant be treated as Taxable Income when my Income Tax Return is completed?**

Please seek advice from your accountant when applying for this type of assistance.

**Q20. How quickly will applications be progressed?**

The aim is for a two-week turnaround including the receipt of payments.

**Q21. Can I get approval before undertaking the works?**

An application can be lodged with a quote or estimate of the cost before undertaking the works. In this instance the Authority will assess general eligibility and advise of an approval in principle. Payment will only occur on production of tax invoices or receipts which must be received **on or before** 19 June 2017.

**Q22. How do I apply?**

Applicants can lodge completed application forms including required documentation to the NSW Rural Assistance Authority by post, email, facsimile or personal delivery at:

Email: inland.floods@raa.nsw.gov.au

Fax: (02) 6391 3098

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

In person: 161 Kite Street, Orange NSW 2800