

Tasmanian Sheep & Goat eID Industry Support Scheme Guidelines

Round 1 –

For Saleyards, Processors, Livestock Transporters and Transport Depots, Livestock Agencies and Agents

1. Background and Support Scheme overview

Nationally, all states and territories are working towards a harmonised framework and implementation timeline for the introduction of electronic identification (eID) of sheep and goats from 1 January 2025.

The Tasmanian Sheep and Goat eID Industry Support Scheme Guidelines (the Support Scheme) aim to provide participants in the sheep and goat sector with information on eligibility requirements and rebates for eID infrastructure.

The Support Scheme is intended to facilitate the ordering and purchasing of necessary infrastructure and equipment to establish eID scanning at crucial points throughout the sheep and goat supply chain. This will help to support the implementation of mandatory individual eID for goats and sheep from January 1, 2025.

Legislation being developed will require supply chain participants to scan and record sheep and goat movements on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database.

The Support Scheme is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

For more information on Sheep and Goat eID project visit

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/multifaceted-agriculture/animal-industries/identifying-selling-moving-livestock/sheep-and-goat-electronic-identification>

Please note that the Project Team will be accepting applications for the first grant round but will not be allocating grants during the caretaker period.

2. Key dates

The first round of funding opens 1 March 2024 and closes 12pm 13 June 2024.

Late applications cannot be accepted as the SmartyGrants portal closes at this time.

3. Eligible applicants

- Saleyards.
- Processors.
- Transport Depots.
- Livestock Transporters.
- Livestock Agencies and Agents.

4. Assistance available

Under the Support Scheme, the maximum rebates that can be claimed for eligible applicants are:

- A grant of up to 75% of the full cost of purchase and installation of eligible eID infrastructure and associated software subscriptions. Grants will be made in instalments to you subject to grant deed conditions for eID infrastructure.
- Rebates of up to 75% of the full cost of purchase for handheld Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) readers will be available for livestock agencies/individual agents.

**** Please note that the rebate can only be applied to equipment or infrastructure purchased after 1 March, 2024 – no back-dated funding is available.**

5. Eligible items & activities

Eligible Participants	Eligible Items
Saleyards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eID readers (panel and handheld RFID scanning devices). • Purchase, installation, and training for software connected to sheep and goat eID infrastructure (including software subscriptions until June 30, 2026 - note that applicants will be expected to pay for software subscriptions after this date). • Structural modifications (drafting upgrades to pens and races). • Connectivity between eID hardware.
Processors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eID readers (panel and handheld RFID scanning devices). • eID hardware (computers, laptops, tablets) where required. • Infrastructure for connectivity between eID hardware. • Post slaughter infrastructure necessary for traceability. • Relevant training to meet mandatory requirements. • Purchase, installation, and training for software connected to sheep and goat eID infrastructure (including software subscriptions until June 30, 2026 - note that applicants will be expected to pay for software subscriptions after this date).
Livestock & Transport Depots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eID readers (panel and handheld RFID scanning devices) and required software. • Infrastructure for connectivity between eID hardware. • Purchase, installation, and training for software connected to sheep and goat eID infrastructure (including software subscriptions until June 30, 2026 - note that applicants will be expected to pay for software subscriptions after this date).
Livestock Agencies & Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFID scanning devices and required software. • Mobile panel readers - for livestock agencies that conduct public auctions on private property (other than at commercial saleyards). • eID hardware if not already in place (computers, laptops, tablets).

6. Ineligible Items for the Support Scheme

Ineligible Items
Construction or maintenance of facilities not essential for installation of eID equipment for sheep and goats
Costs associated with normal business operations
eID applicators: not required for core business activities
Internet access or upgrades
Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accreditation
Saleyards roofing
Second hand or used items
Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour costs
Weight crates and scales

7. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a grant or rebate, the following conditions must be met where relevant:

- a. You are listed as one of the 'eligible applicants' in Section 3.
- b. Your business operates as a sole trader, partnership, trust, or private company.
- c. You have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- d. You have a Property Identification Code (PIC) corresponding to one of the following groups (if applicable):
 - o Saleyards
 - o Abattoirs
 - o Transport Depots
 - o Livestock Transporters
 - o Livestock Agent or Agency
- e. You have or agree to register for a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) account.
- f. If you are a sheep or goat processor you must have an active Certificate of Accreditation issued by the Product Integrity Branch of NRE Tas.
- g. You agree to be visited by a NRE Tas Officer who will assist you to determine, in conjunction with eID suppliers, what NLIS accredited eID equipment you will require.
- h. You have an account with an Australian financial institution.
- i. Your business operates in Tasmania.

8. Terms and conditions

- a. You agree that NRE Tas will determine your eligibility for a grant from the Support Scheme. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please visit the NRE Tas website or make a free call to the Industry Support Officer on 0429 968 078.
- b. The assessment process is non-competitive and eligibility based.
- c. All applications must be completed online via the NRE Tas website.
- d. The application can only be made against purchases after 1 March 2024.
- e. Valid tax invoices submitted in relation to this Support Scheme may not be used to secure funding under any other similar scheme.

- f. Applications received after the advertised application closing date may not be accepted.
- g. You must not pass on any NLIS scanning service fees to clients using equipment or software purchased as part of the Support Scheme.
- h. You agree to return a survey or complete a face-to-face interview specific to the implementation of eID infrastructure.
- i. If you have a requirement to dispose, sell or replace any equipment within a two-year period you must notify NRE Tas before doing so.
- j. If requested, you agree to provide information for NRE Tas to assess your businesses' financial solvency.
- k. Without limiting any rights, NRE Tas (or another Tasmanian agency), in its sole discretion, may recover funds from the claimant and determine that a debt is due if evidence indicates that the claimant:
 - a. did not meet the eligibility criteria; or
 - b. received an overpayment from the Support Scheme.

9. Funding sources

The Support Scheme is operated by NRE Tas using funds provided by both the Australian Government and the Tasmanian State Government. The total amount of funds available for allocation under this Support Scheme is \$11.66 million dollars.

10. Exclusions

You will not be eligible for a rebate if you have received or are eligible to receive financial assistance for costs associated with the eligible items described, from another grants program. This does not include any assistance secured via a loans program for the portion of the costs required outside of this rebate program.

11. Assessment and decision making

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by Officers on the Assessment Panel against the criteria in these guidelines.

Officers on the Assessment Panel must ensure the Support Scheme is administered in accordance with these guidelines.

NRE Tas 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 the refusal of your application.

NRE Tas reserves the right to refuse an application where eligibility criteria are not met or where you do not or cannot provide sufficient information for NRE Tas to determine if eligibility criteria have been met.

NRE Tas can put an application on hold where the applicant is under investigation or has been charged in relation to the fraudulent receipt of grants or rebates under this or other NRE Tas programs or schemes.

Completed applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

Applicants should note that past financial assistance under this Support Scheme or any other program or scheme is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this Support Scheme.

Applications submitted will be subject to audit by NRE Tas in order to determine compliance with the Support Scheme guidelines.

12. Approval

Applicants will be notified of the outcome within 30 business days after submitting a completed application.

13. Claiming

You should refer to the NRE Tas website and complete an online application to ensure you are eligible for funding.

Valid tax invoices for all eligible items will be required prior to payment of any amount.

Payments will be GST-exclusive.

The claiming period may be extended until the end of the program based on proof of order.

14. Fraudulent claims

NRE Tas takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be reported to appropriate external parties such as Tasmania Police.

By signing the online claim form, you declare 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.

NRE Tas responds to fraud by:

- a. audit and site validation of applications and claims that are of concern;
- b. referral to Tasmania Police; and
- c. recovery of any assistance provided under a fraudulent application.

15. Evaluation

NRE Tas is committed to providing excellent service that responds to your needs through well targeted programs. For that reason, NRE Tas evaluates its programs. This includes surveys at various points of your application, approval and completion. NRE Tas may also contact you to ask about your experience of the assistance you received. NRE Tas will always treat the responses you provide as confidential and use the information only for the purposes it was collected.

16. Personal Information Statement

Personal information (which identifies an individual) will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to NRE Tas. A fee may be charged for this service and basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary, for the efficient storage and use of the information.

17. Complaints

Any concerns about the Support Scheme should be submitted in writing to complaints@nre.tas.gov.au or by using the external complaints form [here](#).

Following resolution of your complaints by NRE Tas, if you do not agree with the way the NRE Tas has handled the issue, you may wish to contact Ombudsman Tasmania via www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au/home/contact-us

18. Application assistance

Refer to the NRE Tas [website](#) to complete an online application. If you need assistance with submitting your application, please contact;

- Phone the Industry Support Officer on 0429 968 078
- Email: sheepandgoatID@nre.tas.gov.au
- If you need assistance with interpreting or translating, please click [here](#).

19. Definitions

Approval:

Your application will be approved based on your eligibility against the criteria listed in Section 3. Your invoices will be approved based on their eligibility against the criteria listed in Section 5. An approved application does not guarantee an approved invoice.

Farmed goat:

Refers to any goat that is not a harvested rangeland goat, which is managed or semi-managed on a property and is subject to animal husbandry procedures and managed breeding programs.

Livestock agency:

Refers to a business incorporated to undertake activities to coordinate, move and sell livestock, and who employs livestock agents to carry out these key business functions.

Livestock agent:

Applies to persons involved in the preparation and presentation of sheep and goats for sale and purchase on behalf of clients at saleyards, processors, export depots, digital/virtual sales platforms and between other properties with different PICs.

Saleyard operator:

Applies to all persons and livestock agents operating or employed in sheep and goat saleyards (mobile or fixed) and any other location where sheep and goats are offered for sale by public auction (including clearing sales, on-farm and showgrounds).

Processors:

Applies to persons owning, operating, or employed in processing of sheep and goats and their carcasses, including abattoirs and knackeries.

Export depot operators and exporters:

Applies to persons operating export registered premises, or export depot operators (EDO) employed by a livestock export licence holder (exporter).

Holding properties, assembly points and transit centres:

Applies to persons transiting sheep and goats through holding properties, assembly points and transit centres (holding yards), and the operators at those locations.

Mandatory individual electronic identification (eID) tagging:

Means that –

- i. Sheep or farmed goats must be identified with an approved electronic NLIS device that was assigned for use on that property before they leave that property; or
- ii. Sheep or farmed goats must either be carrying an approved electronic NLIS device fitted by a previous owner, or an approved electronic NLIS post-breeder device that is assigned for use on the property from which they will be dispatched before leaving that property.

Property Identification Code (PIC)

A unique spatial code allocated by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) to a property in accordance with the General Biosecurity Direction (Livestock Traceability) or the *Animal (Brands and Movement) Act 1984*.

Proof of order:

Refers to a valid tax invoice showing a deposit has been made for an order.

Valid tax invoice:

Refers to a valid tax invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates and must be clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure of the applicant. NRE Tas will ask for proof of payment of the invoice.

'You' and 'your':

In the context of these guidelines and the related application process, 'you' and 'your' throughout refer to the applicant. NRE Tas takes you as having the authority to make an application on behalf of the entity applying.

20. Disclaimer

Information in this publication is provided as general information only and is not intended as a substitute for advice from a qualified professional.

NRE Tas recommends that users exercise care and use their own skill and judgment in using information from this publication and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness, and relevance of such information. Users should take steps to independently verify the information in this publication and, where appropriate, seek professional advice.

Funding assistance provided through the Support Scheme is subject to funds being available. NRE Tas reserves the right to make changes to the Support Scheme to ensure it meets the objectives outlined in these guidelines and provides equitable funding support to applicants.

In the event of an early Support Scheme closure, NRE Tas will pay invoices ranked by the date received up to the allocated funding.

In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of NRE Tas.

These guidelines are subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of NRE Tas.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (1 March 2024). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NRE Tas or the user's independent adviser.

General enquiries and more information:

Phone Farmpoint on **1300 292 292**
Email: **sheepandgoatID@nre.tas.gov.au**
Website: **NRE Tas Sheep & Goat eID**