

King and Flinders Islands Farm Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Tasmanian Guidelines

July 2024

1. About the Program

The Tasmanian Government is offering a rebate to livestock primary producers on King and Flinders Islands to purchase and install new on-farm water infrastructure, or repair and/or replace damaged existing on-farm water infrastructure. **These rebates address animal welfare needs and improve resilience to drought.** Applicants will be required to demonstrate that they are from the livestock grazing industry, or other eligible primary producers on the Islands will be considered on a case by case basis.

The Rebate Scheme is funded by the Tasmanian Government and is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

The Rebate Scheme is open to applications any time **until 24 December 2024** or until the Scheme's funds are fully committed (whichever occurs first). **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Claims and evidence that approved project activities are completed must be provided to NRE Tas by **30 June 2025**. NRE Tas is not able to guarantee payment of a rebate after this claim closing date.

2. Available funding

The Rebate Scheme provides a one-off 25 per cent rebate up to \$15,000 (GST Exclusive) to eligible primary producers for the costs associated with the purchase and installation of eligible on-farm water infrastructure and/or repairs.

A potential additional \$2,500 resilience plan bonus rebate to further support the development of drought resilient farming businesses, and recognising the specific circumstances and extra costs involved for agribusiness on the Bass Strait Islands, is available to livestock grazing primary producers who can provide evidence of a current drought management plan or a completed Farm Business Resilience (FBR) Plan.

The maximum rebate that can be claimed is \$17,500 (GST Exclusive) per livestock grazing primary production enterprise.

For example, if you incur costs totalling \$60 000 or more (GST Exclusive) for installing on-farm water infrastructure on your property, you would be eligible to receive the rebate of \$15 000 (GST Exclusive) subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria. In addition, if you have evidence of having completed a drought management plan or a Farm Business Resilience (FBR) Plan you can claim an additional \$2,500 bonus rebate, because improving water infrastructure is a key part managing the risks to the welfare of your livestock and farming business. The bonus rebate is not included in the initial calculation of an eligible 25 per cent rebate requiring matching 75 per cent contribution.

The FBR Program is being delivered in Tasmania for the Dairy Industry via the DairyTas (www.dairyaustralia.com.au/dairytas) 'Our farm Our Plan' initiative, and for all other forms of agriculture by RMCG (www.tasfarmingfutures.com.au/resilient-farming-tas). Interested farmers are encouraged to enrol in the FBR Program to receive subsidised training and coaching to complete their Plans by 30 June 2025.

The additional rebate will be paid on completion and verification by NRE Tas of a satisfactory farm business resilience plan or drought risk management plan. You can discuss this additional rebate with the Farmpoint team on 1300 292 292.

3. Eligible Applicants

Prospective applicants are advised to carefully consider the eligibility criteria and the list of eligible and ineligible activities before submitting an application. To assist you at any time in the process, please contact AgriGrowth Tasmania via FarmPoint at farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or phone 1300 292 292.

Eligible applicants MUST...

- a. be a livestock grazing primary producer on King or Flinders Islands:
 - i. For the purposes of this Rebate Scheme an eligible Primary Producer refers to the carrying on of a business of primary production consistent with Taxation Ruling [TR97/11](#) available on the www.ato.gov.au website
 - ii. The grazing of livestock refers to animals primarily grazing in a pasture-based open-air grazing system.
- b. be property owners, share farmers or lease holders in the livestock grazing industry.
- c. undertake project activities for grazing livestock that the landholder owns (that is, not for stock agisted on their property).

Note: The Rebate Scheme recognises that livestock production is the primary agricultural pursuit conducted on King and Flinders Islands and therefore the risks that water scarcity from drought can pose to livestock animal welfare. Other primary producers on King and Flinders Islands that meet the Taxation Ruling definition outlined above may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Any eligible livestock primary producers who may have accessed similar water infrastructure rebate schemes in the past are eligible to apply for this Scheme, provided the costs are new and have not previously been claimed, or to access the \$2,500 bonus for having a FBT Plan or drought management plan in place.

4. Eligible Activities

Water infrastructure must be purchased and installed for genuine animal welfare purposes that will also improve future drought resilience. The rebate applies to new, repairs to, or replacement of, water infrastructure purchased after 1 January 2024 and must be:

- a. infrastructure purchased to assist with stock water, including:
 - i. underground fixed pipes
 - ii. water storage devices such as tanks and troughs.
 - iii. water pumps and associated water distribution systems

and/or
- b. the drilling of new stock water bores and associated power supply such as generators

and/or

- c. electrical and technology control devices for the installed water infrastructure

and/or

- d. construction, modification and desilting of an existing dam or waterhole for stock water provision.

Eligibility for the rebate to cover expenses related to damaged water infrastructure applies to:

- f. repair or replacement of damaged infrastructure (limited to the items listed in a to d above) and
- g. applications that do not include funds from insurance and other grants as part of the 75 per cent contribution required of applicants.

For the purposes of this Scheme, the costs directly attributable to and required for, the installation of, or repairs to, the eligible infrastructure including contractors, labour hire, or employee or business operator wages can be included. Invoices, time sheets or other evidence will be required as part of the application.

You can claim the cost of your own labour if additional labour was not able to be sourced on the Island to complete the work prior to the Scheme closing on 30 June 2025.

Claiming your own labour is subject to these conditions:

- * a maximum of \$5,000 may be claimed
- * must not include work carried out by you that should have been undertaken by licenced contractors (such as certified electrical and plumbing work)
- * providing a timesheet stating hours worked and an hourly rate that must be submitted with your claim along with a declaration that the claimed hours were in addition to your normal working hours to complete the approved work.

NOTE : Works above may require approval under the *Water Management Act 1999*. Advice is available from the NRE Tas's Water Unit. Fact sheets, application forms and contacts may be found here: [Dams | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#). Alternatively, please speak to AgriGrowth Tasmania via FarmPoint at farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or phone 1300 292 292.

Applications may be referred to NRE Tas's Water Unit to ensure appropriate approvals are in place prior to any rebates being paid.

5. Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply to:

- any new purchases or repairs made prior to 1 January 2024.
- water infrastructure purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock i.e. excludes water infrastructure associated with crop [pasture] or fodder irrigation, such as pivot irrigators.
- water infrastructure costs financed by the Australian Government or the Tasmanian Government under another program, other than a loan program.
- normal wages paid to an employee of your primary production enterprise or your self-assessed labour not involved in installing the water infrastructure.
- the purchase and/or installation of other types of on-farm infrastructure, such as machinery and sheds.

6. Guidance for water infrastructure decision making

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that placement and design of water infrastructure, including infrastructure repairs, meets all relevant Tasmanian laws and permit and licensing requirements. Please refer to AgriGrowth Tasmania via FarmPoint on 1300 292 292 or farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or <https://nre.tas.gov.au/water> for any questions.

7. Assessment and Approval Process

Applications for a rebate under the Scheme must be made through SmartyGrants at www.nre.tas.gov.au and include or attach the information and documentation specified. Please contact AgriGrowth Tasmania through FarmPoint on 1300 292 292 or farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au if you require assistance with completing the application.

Completed applications must be received by NRE Tas by **24 December 2024**. No late applications will be accepted.

Funding for the Rebate Scheme is limited and completed applications will be processed in order of receipt. By submitting your completed application through SmartyGrants, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and correct. Providing inaccurate, false or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.

Only **one** claim is normally accepted for assessment of the rebate for the Scheme. Please contact AgriGrowth Tasmania through FarmPoint on 1300 292 292 or farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au if you feel your circumstances mean you may need to submit more than one rebate claim for reimbursement. All works need to be completed and all documented evidence for your claim including invoices, receipts, photos, etc submitted by **30 June 2025**. NRE Tas is unable to guarantee payment of any rebates for documents and/or evidence received after this closing date.

What does a successful application look like?

A successful application:

- Is submitted before the closing date and time.
- Meets all eligibility criteria.
- Provides clear answers to all questions.
- Provides evidence, including photographs and invoices, to support all claims made within the application.

8. Assessment and Approval Process

Applications will be assessed in order of receipt (except where an application is incomplete) and against the eligibility criteria. Where an application is incomplete, it will not be assessed until the applicant has supplied ALL the required information such as invoices.

NRE Tas may request further information from you, or 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 your application being rejected.

9. Other important information:

NRE Tas reserves the right to revise these Guidelines at any time. Revised Guidelines will be clearly marked and published online on the same web page as the guidelines they replace. Each application will be assessed against the Guidelines current at the time the application is received by NRE Tas.

NRE Tas may decline your application if you are found to be in breach of any other funding, grant or loan agreement with the Tasmanian Government, or withhold payment of the Rebate until the breach is rectified to the satisfaction of NRE Tas.

The Tasmanian Government may conduct an evaluation to determine the extent to which the Rebate Scheme has met its objectives. Rebate applicants and recipients may be requested to provide information to assist in the evaluation after the Scheme's completion.

False and misleading information

By signing the claim 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. If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the funds.

10. Appealing a decision

The appeals process is designed to ensure that all applicants have been treated fairly and consistently in applying for NRE Tas grants.

All requests must be in writing and should be addressed to the General Manager, Agriculture, Forestry and Water by email: farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au or by post: GPO Box 44 HOBART Tasmania 7001

Your request must be received within 28 days from the date of NRE Tas notifying you of the decision about your application. For further information about the process, contact Farmpoint, phone 1300 292 292 or email: farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au

11. Taxation and financial implications

Applicants may wish to seek independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving a rebate grant under the program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), prior to submitting an application. The receipt of funding from this Scheme may be treated as income by the ATO. While rebates are typically treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the recipient's particular circumstances.

12. Rebate payments

If your application is successful, you will be required to have submitted a valid tax invoice for the amount of the rebate (excluding GST) before the claim can be processed.

Applicants are asked for accurate bank account details at the time of applying to enable timely payment once the grant is approved. This bank account must be in the same name as the person, business or organisation that applied for the grant. You may be asked to provide a copy of your bank statement or a letter from your bank to confirm your bank account details.

13. Personal information protection

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. NRE Tas only collects personal information that is necessary for it to perform its functions and will only use or disclose this information for the purposes for which it was provided. For further information refer to: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/governance-policies-and-legislation/personal-information-protection-policy>

14. Disclaimer

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains. The Crown in Right of Tasmania accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise from anything contained in or omitted from or that may arise from the use of this document, and any person relying on this document and the information it contains does so at their own risk absolutely. The Crown in Right of Tasmania does not accept liability or responsibility for any loss incurred by an applicant that are in any way related to the program.