

1. About the Program

The objective of this assistance measure, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, is to assist with the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary producers that have suffered direct damage as a direct result of the Central Tasmanian Floods from October and November 2021 ([AGRN 1000](#)) and the Southern Tasmanian Storm in December 2021 ([AGRN 1002](#)).

Primary producers play an integral part in local economies and communities, and this assistance must contribute towards minimising disruption in the affected area and assisting the community to recover.

The scheme is funded by the Tasmanian and Australian Government and is administered by the Agriculture, Forestry and Water Division of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

The scheme is open to applications until **30 November 2022**.

2. Available funding

The standard maximum grant amount for clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures is **\$10,000** per affected property.

Should an initial application be for less than the maximum grant amount, further applications may be submitted if additional expenditure is required to complete clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures.

Evidence in support of claims for grants must include:

- a) a written list of natural disaster-related damage with cost estimates for each item;
- b) photographic evidence of the direct natural disaster-related impacts;
- c) for expenses already incurred, documented evidence of actual expenditure (including official receipts and official invoices);
- d) evidence that demonstrates the applicant meets relevant eligibility criteria; and
- e) any other information deemed appropriate.

3. How funding may be used

The maximum grant amount available is \$10,000.

3.1. Grants are provided to help pay for the costs of the clean-up and reinstatement of the primary production enterprise. This includes:

- a) engaging a tradesperson to conduct a safety inspection of damage to a property, premises or equipment;
- b) hiring, leasing or purchasing equipment or materials to clean a property, premises or equipment;
- c) paying additional wages to an existing employee, or employing a person to clean a property, premises or equipment if
 - i. the cost would not ordinarily have been incurred in the absence of the eligible disaster; or
 - ii. the cost exceeds the cost of employing a person to clean the property, premises or equipment that would ordinarily have been incurred in the absence of the eligible disaster;
- d) removing and disposing of debris, damaged goods and material, and injured or dead livestock;
- e) repairing a building or repairing or replacing fittings in a building if the repair or replacement is essential for resuming operation of the primary production enterprise. Funding is not available for repairs to a building that is used as a dwelling, unless it is used for carrying on the primary production enterprise, for example staff accommodation;

- f) purchasing, hiring or leasing equipment or materials that are essential for immediately resuming operation of the primary production enterprise; and
- g) any of the following –
 - i. repairing, reconditioning or replacing essential plant or equipment damaged by the eligible disaster;
 - ii. repairing or replacing fencing on a property, other than to the extent the cost may be recovered under other assistance from the Commonwealth or State/Territory (for example, the Horticultural Netting Infrastructure Program);
 - iii. purchasing fodder, other than to the extent the cost may be recovered under other assistance from the Commonwealth or State/Territory;
 - iv. maintaining the health of livestock and poultry;
 - v. replacing the dead livestock;
 - vi. repairing or restoring fields;
 - vii. salvaging crops, grain or feed;
 - viii. replacing lost or damaged plants if the replacement is essential for immediately resuming operation of the primary production enterprise; and
 - ix. carting water.

3.2 Grants cannot be provided to help pay for costs associated with the following:

- a) for loss of income as a result of the eligible disaster;
- b) for payment of employee salaries that would have ordinarily been incurred by the primary production enterprise had the eligible disaster not occurred;
- c) for expansion projects, or for areas that were not in active production, however this should not prevent sensible preparation for future events;
- d) if the applicant has received, or has been approved to receive, an amount under a policy of insurance for the relevant costs claimed. The applicant may be eligible for a grant for the portion of costs that are not covered by their insurance, or for amounts in excess of the value insured; and
- e) if the applicant has received, or has been approved to receive, financial assistance for costs associated with the items described in section 3.1, from another government assistance scheme.

4. Eligibility

4.1. To be eligible for a Primary Producer Clean Up Grant, the applicant must:

- a) be a primary producer,
- b) devote part of their labour to the primary production enterprise;
- c) derive at least 50 per cent of their gross income from primary production;
 - i. An applicant may also be eligible for a grant if the applicant derives at least 50 per cent of their total gross income from primary production and value-added products (e.g. wine) made directly from raw produce grown by the applicant
- d) hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the disaster;
- e) have a primary production enterprise that is located in the [defined area](#) for the eligible disaster and have suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster;
- f) have been engaged in carrying on the primary production enterprise when affected by the eligible disaster;
- g) intend to re-establish the primary production enterprise in the same community, region or sector requested;
- h) be primarily responsible for meeting the costs claimed in the applications; and
- i) for costs relating to activities listed in section 3, provide satisfactory evidence of loss or damage.

4.2. An applicant may also be eligible for a Primary Producer Clean Up Grant if both of the following apply:

- a) The applicant's primary production enterprise is located outside the defined disaster area for the eligible disaster but is carried on at least sometime on a regular basis in the area; and
- b) Property, plant or equipment of the primary production enterprise situated in the defined disaster area has been damaged as a result of the eligible disaster.

- 4.3. Where two or more independent and separately owned and registered primary producers operate from the same property, each primary producer may receive the maximum available grant amount providing applicants can demonstrate that:
- a) they are independent and separately owned and registered with their own ABN from the other primary producer(s) on that property;
 - b) they are eligible for the grant in their own right (including the requirement that they derive at least 50 per cent of their gross income from the primary production enterprise stated in clause 4.1;
 - c) they are claiming for different expenses to the other primary producer(s) who are operating on the same property; and
 - d) the expenses that they are claiming are essential to the operation of their primary production business.
- 4.4. Where an applicant's income from primary production is less than 50 per cent of their total income, the applicant may nonetheless be eligible for a grant if it can be demonstrated that:
- a) in the ordinary course of business, the applicant would meet that requirement, but:
 - i. their primary production income is currently reduced due to seasonal conditions; and/or
 - ii. due to long lead times to full production, the applicant expects to earn such an amount of income within a three to eight year period, taking into account the nature of the industry.

5. Eligible Separate Businesses

- 5.1. Applicants who operate more than one primary production enterprise, for example under a single ABN at separate locations, may apply for assistance for each eligible separate business up to the maximum amount of assistance available for the relevant defined disaster area.
- 5.2. When determining an application on this basis NRE Tas may consider (but is not limited to):
- a) the staffing arrangements of the separate businesses;
 - b) whether the business has its own plant equipment or stock;
 - c) the accounting arrangements of the separate businesses;
 - d) whether the separate business operates under its own trading name; and
 - e) the commercial viability and autonomy of each businesses.

6. Assessment and Approval Process

- 6.1. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria.
- 6.2. NRE Tas reserves the right to request further information from an applicant or from any business or individual an applicant has engaged, to assist in assessing an application and to verify any information provided in an application. Failure to provide such information may result in NRE Tas refusing an application.
- 6.3. NRE Tas reserves the right to refuse an application where eligibility criteria are not met, or where the applicant does not or cannot provide sufficient information for NRE Tas to determine if eligibility criteria have been met.
- 6.4. Applications submitted may be subject to audit by NRE Tas or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.
- 6.5. Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.
- 6.6. Before applying for financial assistance under this program, applicants should seek advice from their legal, business or financial advisers about the tax implications of this financial assistance.
- 6.7. Applicants may be expected to provide a range of supporting documentation, such as the latest local council rate notice; latest available Tax Return and Financial Statement for your primary production enterprise and complete copies of personal Tax Returns for each member of the primary production enterprise.
- 6.8. In exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given to applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 4, upon agreement between NRE Tas and the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA)

7. How to Apply

Applicants must complete NRE Tasmania's SmartyGrants online application

Applications are to be supported by:

- evidence of natural disaster impact e.g. photographs;
- evidence of ownership structure for the land parcel proposed for this project (registered owners, share farmers or lease holders) for example, a copy of local council rate notice;
- a copy of the Trust Deed if the applicant operates as a trust

The release of grant funds is subject to the provision of evidence to substantiate the cost to recover from the natural disaster. Applicants may submit written quote(s) or a written estimate(s) to seek in-principal approval of the grant. However, funds will not be released until evidence of eligible expenditure is provided in the form of tax invoices / receipts.

Applications will be assessed in order of receipt against the eligibility criteria and must be submitted by **30 November 2022**.

8. Other Matters

Grants under this program may result in financial, taxation, legal or other impacts. Applicants are advised to seek independent financial advice in regard to these impacts. Applicants may also seek advice from the Australian Tax Office on 1800 806 218 if they have further questions about their individual situation.

If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant will be notified of the reasons for the decision and provided with an opportunity to request a review of the decision. An applicant requesting a review will be required to provide evidence addressing the notified reasons for the decision.

Appeals must be lodged within one month and addressed to:

Primary Producer Recovery Grants
farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au

9. Further Information

Information relating to the Natural Disaster recovery program can be obtained from **NRE Tas** website: www.nre.tas.gov.au

If you require further information, please contact FarmPoint on 1300 292 292 or via email at farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au

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