

Assistance for primary producers affected by North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January to 14 February 2019

Joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) activation

Natural Disaster Recovery Grants Scheme Exceptional Grants

Recovery grants provides primary producers with access to grants of up to \$75,000 to aid with eligible clean up and restoration activities following this severe natural disaster.

The following areas have been approved for Category C recovery grants:

- Burdekin Shire Council
- Burke Shire Council
- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Cloncurry Regional Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Flinders Shire Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- McKinlay Shire Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- Townsville City Council
- Winton Shire Council

Category B DRFA assistance

Category B assistance for primary producers provides freight subsidies for the movement of materials to assist recovery, concessional loans for primary producers that have been directly affected by the natural disaster, and concessional loans for primary producers that have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of the natural disaster. Category B assistance has been activated for the following Local Government Areas:

- Burdekin Shire Council
- Burke Shire Council
- Carpentaria Shire Council
- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Cloncurry Regional Council
- Croydon Shire Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council
- Flinders Shire Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- McKinlay Shire Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- Townsville City Council
- Winton Shire Council

Category B freight subsidies

DRFA Category B assistance provides primary producers with access to freight subsidies for the movement of materials to assist recovery. Freight subsidies may be made available for movement of materials such as:

- emergency fodder for livestock located at the home property
- building and fencing materials, machinery and equipment movements; and
- animals purchased for restocking.

A maximum freight subsidy payment per property of up to 50 per cent to a maximum of \$5,000 applies on combined restocking, fodder, building and fencing materials, and machinery and equipment movements.

Freight subsidies are available through DAF and the guidelines and forms for freight subsidies can be found here: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/disaster-assistance-forms-and-guidelines>

Category B natural disaster loans

DRFA Category B assistance provides primary producers with access to Natural Disaster loans of up to \$250,000 at a concessional rate. The loans can assist primary producers in re-establishing their enterprise by covering costs such as:

- repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment
- repairing or replacing buildings
- purchasing livestock to replace those lost in the disaster event
- meeting carry-on requirements including:
 - re-planting, restoring or re-establishing areas affected by the disaster event
 - sustenance
 - essential property operations
 - paying rent and rates.

Natural Disaster loans are available through QRIDA and details can be found at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-loans.

Category B essential working capital loans

DRFA Category B assistance provides primary producers with access to Essential Working Capital loans of up to \$100,000 at a concessional rate. The loans can assist primary producers that have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of the recent disaster but have not suffered direct damage. The loan is to be used as essential working capital; money that is necessary to continue the normal operation of the primary production enterprise and can be used for covering costs such as:

- paying salaries or wages
- paying creditors
- paying rent or rates
- buying goods such as fuel, and
- buying fodder or water for livestock or produce, or transporting livestock or produce.

Essential Working Capital loans are available through QRIDA and details can be found at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-loans/natural-disaster-assistance-essential-working-capital.

Animal welfare and extension assistance

DAF provides a range of extension and animal welfare advice to primary producers who have been affected by a natural disaster. DAF can also assist in identifying owners of misplaced livestock. People finding lost livestock can provide the ear tag information to the DAF Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23. The animals' owners will be contacted to let them know where their animals are located.

Contacts

For more information on assistance available through DAF, office hours and regional officer locations please contact the DAF Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 or visit www.daf.qld.gov.au.

For more information on assistance available through QRIDA and regional officer locations please contact QRIDA on 1800 623 946.

For more support information, follow us on Facebook Queensland Agriculture and Twitter @QldAgriculture.