

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

The Farm Management Grant

www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/farm-management-grants

Q: What is the Farm Management Grant for?

- A. Farm Management Grants offer primary producers a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of eligible professional advice up to a maximum \$2,500 to produce a Farm Business Resilience Plan for their property.

Q: Do you need to submit a completed Farm Business Resilience Plan to receive the Farm Management Grant?

- A. Yes. The plan developed must be submitted with the application together with the invoices from the suitably qualified professional adviser(s). The activities that you are applying for in this grant must also be stated in your Farm Business Resilience Plan.

Q: Can you use the grant to cover the cost of activities to implement the advice?

- A. No. These rebates are to offset the cost of seeking eligible professional advice. A QRIDA [Drought Preparedness Grant](#), [Drought-ready-and-recovery-finance-loan](#) or [Sustainability Loan](#) may be available for implementation activities.

Q: What needs to be included in the plan when applying for this grant?

- A. The activities that you are applying for in this grant must also be stated in your Farm Business Resilience Plan. A Farm Business Resilience Plan should identify if these risks need to be managed and if so, also include an Action and/or Implementation Plan for specific activities that have been identified to manage these risks.
Please provide a clear, brief overview on the type of project and intended outcomes (max. 150 words); what you are going to do and how it will increase Farm business resilience, sustainability and manage natural resources.

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

The Drought Preparedness Grant

www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/drought-preparedness-grants

Q: How much of the cost of the activity does the grant cover?

- A. 25%. Drought Preparedness Grants offer up to \$50,000 as a co-contribution grant to assist primary producers undertake on-farm capital improvements that will improve the drought preparedness of their property.

Q: How can I fund the remaining 75%?

- A. A [Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loan](#) may be used as the co-contribution to the Drought Preparedness Grant for implementation activities, or A [QRIDA Sustainability Loan](#) may be able to help fund the remainder of your project.

Q: What projects are eligible?

- A. To be eligible for Drought Preparedness Grant, the project will:
- involve the purchase and installation of new permanent capital infrastructure
 - improve the ability of the primary production business to prepare for continue to operate in, or recover from, drought conditions
 - be a drought preparedness activity listed in your resilience plan for the primary production business and
 - not have already commenced the project before the assistance is approved. (Deposits however may be paid for the purchase of materials or engaging contractors up to 90 days before the approval of assistance).
 - No. Grant funding is not guaranteed at any stage of the application process

Q: Am I eligible?

- A. To be eligible for a Drought Preparedness Grant, applicants must:
- demonstrate at least one person in the primary production business meets the definition of a primary producer;
 - demonstrate an ability to provide the remaining contribution to the grant requested;
 - demonstrate that any necessary regulatory approvals have been obtained; and
 - present a Farm Business Resilience Plan (as outlined in Section 6 of the guidelines), satisfactory to QRIDA.
 - To be eligible for a Drought Preparedness Grant, applicants must not have:

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

- f. made an application to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries supported by an invoice issued in the past six month period for assistance under:
- g. a freight subsidy under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme
- h. the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme; and
- i. previously received a Drought Preparedness Grant for the same project activity.

Q: What is the definition of primary producer for the Drought Preparedness Grants?

A. Primary producer means:

- a sole trader who
 - spends the majority of the person's labour on a primary production enterprise; and
 - either
 - derives the majority of the person's income from the primary production enterprise; or
 - in the opinion of the authority, based on the demonstrated production potential of the primary production enterprise, will eventually derive the majority of the person's income from the primary production enterprise; or
- a partnership, company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, any partners, shareholders, or beneficiaries
 - spend the majority of their labour on a primary production enterprise; and
 - either
 - derive the majority of their income from the primary production enterprise; or
 - in the opinion of the authority, based on the demonstrated production potential of the primary production enterprise, will eventually derive the majority of their income from the primary production enterprise.

Q: Can I start my project before I have been approved for assistance?

A. No. You may pay a deposit, up to 90 days prior to approval, towards the purchase of materials for engaging a contractor prior to being approved for assistance. However, to be eligible you cannot have commenced works on an eligible project before the approval of assistance.

Q: Can I claim reimbursement for money I have already spent on preparedness activities?

A. No, grant funding is only eligible for projects approved under the scheme. Approved projects must not have been started (or completed) at the time of applying.

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

Q: How long do I have to have to complete my drought preparedness project after approval of a grant?

- A. Your project should commence within ninety days and should be completed, with approved funding drawn within six months from entering into a letter of offer with QRIDA.

Q: What if my project will take longer than six months to complete?

- A. If your Farm Business Resilience Plan outlines projects over a longer duration, these should be the subject of another application for grant funding after completion of the current project.

Q: I have not arranged my co-contribution, can I still apply for this scheme?

- A. Yes, you can. If eligible for the grant, you will be given conditional approval by QRIDA. This approval would be subject to you arranging your co-contribution to the equivalent amount.

Q: Can I submit multiple applications for different properties and receive over \$50,000 in Drought Preparedness Grant funding for the multiple of properties?

- A. Yes. However, you must be operating separate primary production enterprises under separate Australian Business Numbers (ABN). As part of the assessment, QRIDA will confirm these are eligible separate businesses.

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

The QRIDA Drought Ready & Recovery Finance loan

www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/drought-ready-and-recovery-finance-loans

Q: What assistance is available?

- A. A Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loan of up to \$250,000 is available for primary producers who may be ready to undertake on-farm capital improvement activities or restocking and replanting activities to improve the drought resilience of their primary production enterprise.

Q: Do you need a Farm Business Resilience plan to apply for the loan?

- A. Yes. The drought preparedness or recovery activity must be listed in your Farm Business Resilience plan.

Q: What is the maximum term of the loan?

- A. 10 years.

Q: Is there an interest only option?

- A. The loan is interest only for the first two years at a concessional interest rate. Following the initial two years, principal and concessional interest payments will apply for the remaining term of the loan.

Q: Can you apply the loan funding for work already commenced or completed prior to loan approval?

- A. No. You cannot have already commenced the activity before the assistance is approved. (Deposits however may be paid for the purchase of materials or engaging contractors up to 90 days before the approval of assistance).

Q: Is the applicant eligibility like the grants?

- A. Yes. You need to be an eligible primary producer, have prospects for viability and ability to service the loan, present a Farm Business Resilience Plan satisfactory to QRIDA and have included the proposed activities in your Farm Business Resilience plan. You also must not have made application to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries supported by an invoice issued in the past six month period for assistance under:
- a freight subsidy under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme; or
 - the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

Q: How can the loan funds be used?

Drought ready projects must:

- a. involve the purchase and installation of new permanent capital infrastructure;
- b. improve the ability of the primary production business to prepare for, continue to operate in, or recover from, drought conditions;
- c. be a drought preparedness activity listed in your Farm Business Resilience Plan for the primary production business; and
- d. not have already commenced the project before the assistance is approved. (Deposits however may be paid for the purchase of materials or engaging contractors up to 90 days before the approval of assistance).

B. Drought recovery activities must:

- a. involve replanting, preparing the land for replanting or restocking;
- b. improve the ability of the primary production business to recover from drought conditions;
- c. be a drought recovery activity listed in your Farm Business Resilience Plan for the primary production business; and
- d. not have already commenced the activity before the assistance is approved. (Deposits however may be paid for the purchase of materials or engaging contractors up to 90 days before the approval of assistance)

Q: What are the requirements of the Farm Business Resilience Plan?

A. A Farm Business Resilience Plan, should include content that addresses the following:

- a. Production risks
 - i. climate and weather
 - ii. natural resource management
 - iii. biosecurity
- b. (b) Business risks
 - i. financial viability
 - ii. market
- c. (c) Personal risks
 - i. workplace health and safety
 - ii. key people

B. A Farm Business Resilience Plan should identify if these risks need to be managed and if so, also include an Action and/or Implementation Plan for specific activities that have been identified to manage these risks. A Farm Business Resilience Plan may reference other supplementary material that support the plan, for example, a current industry Best Management Practice (BMP) output such as a risk report, a farm biosecurity plan and/or a succession plan.

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

QRIDA Sustainability Loan

www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/sustainability-loan

Q: What assistance is available?

- A. Loan amount available is up to \$1.3 million dollars. The new round of funding available opens 1st July 2023 and there are funds available now.

Q: Do you need a Farm Business Resilience plan to apply for the loan?

- A. No. However, a [QRIDA Sustainability Loan](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/sustainability-loan) may be used as the co-contribution to the Drought Preparedness Grant for implementation activities.

Q: What can a [QRIDA Sustainability Loan](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/sustainability-loan) be used for?

- A. These loans can help you invest in the latest infrastructure to create a viable future for your farming business including activities that improve farming system sustainability, natural resource sustainability and financial sustainability. You can use a Sustainability Loan to:
- upgrade, expand or diversify your current operation to improve productivity and long-term profitability, create jobs and boost private sector investment
 - undertake drought preparedness activities and invest in infrastructure that improves drought and disaster preparedness
 - improve irrigation and establish additional water points to improve efficiency
 - purchase capital equipment to meet environmental and climatic challenges, including predator fencing and renewable energy, measures to improve outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef and measures which could reduce net carbon emissions
 - invest in biosecurity measures
 - implement value adding or supply chain initiatives.

Q: What is the maximum term of the loan?

- A. Up to 20 years.

Q: Is there an interest only option?

- A. No. The loan has low fixed interest rates for 1,3 or 5 years and have no fees.

Farm Business Resilience Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PLANNING & QRIDA FUNDING SUPPORT

Q: Is the applicant eligibility like the grants?

- A. No. To be eligible for a Sustainability Loan at least one person in your primary production business needs to be a primary producer. You are also required to:
- i. have operated your Queensland based primary production business for at least two years; and
 - ii. have sound prospects for commercial viability and the ability to service the loan in the long term.
- b. For purposes related to financial sustainability you are required to demonstrate:
- i. concessional finance is needed to secure sound prospects for success in the long term; and
 - ii. the proposal is not simply expanding an already financially sound primary production business, for example, by acquiring more land.
- c. For purposes related to natural resource sustainability or farming system sustainability:
- d. you should demonstrate the primary production business is not in a financial position to readily support the proposal from cash resources, or a ready capability to service increased commercial lending.
- B. latest infrastructure to create a viable future for your farming business including activities that improve farming system sustainability, natural resource sustainability and financial sustainability. (Eligibility criteria apply see bottom of document).

These fact sheets have been prepared using QRIDA information February 2023. The purpose of these Q & A sheets is to provide you with an overview of QRIDA funding assistance relevant to the Farm Business Resilience Program. Always refer to the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) www.qrida.qld.gov.au to seek current information for loans, grants & rebates, drought support, farm debt services and other programs and financial assistance programs on behalf of state, territory and commonwealth governments & before making any funding decisions for your primary production enterprise.