

## Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

# Removal of livestock freight subsidy

The *Removal of livestock freight subsidy* is jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for Queensland primary producers. The purpose of the scheme is to provide freight assistance to remove stock from a property that is impacted or likely to be impacted by a natural disaster.

### Eligibility

To apply for this subsidy, you must meet the following conditions:

- You are a primary producer. For the purposes of this scheme, a primary producer is a person or a partner in a partnership, company or trust who spends more than 50 per cent of their labour on and derives more than 50 per cent of their gross income from a primary production enterprise.
- You are a property owner, share-farmer or lessee in the grazing industry (beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, goats, deer or horses that are not normally hand-fed).
- Your property was within a DRFA disaster activated area or had a current Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration on the date the transport occurred.
- The transport of the animals from the property of origin was required for animal welfare reasons or to avoid land degradation as a direct result of a natural disaster event and/or to remove animals that were likely to be impacted by the disaster event before the event.
- The animals were transported within three months after the date of natural disaster activation or **within two weeks before the natural disaster activation with approval from a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Climate Risk Coordinator** <sup>1</sup>
- The animals were transported from the closest source that was practically available. A distance restriction of 1,000 km exists and subsidies will be reduced if this distance restriction was exceeded.<sup>2</sup>
- The animals were transported by hired carrier, ship or rail.
- Your application is received in Brisbane within **six months** of the date the livestock was transported.

The subsidy applies to the transport of:

- Livestock that were removed from your property due to a natural disaster.
- Livestock that permanently reside on the property such as beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, goats, deer. Other livestock industries may be eligible for subsidy depending on the nature and extent of the natural disaster.

<sup>1</sup> In special circumstances, subsidies may be available for movements made in the two weeks immediately prior to the declaration of a disaster area with each application being judged on its merits and supported by a recommendation from a DAF Climate Risk Coordinator.

<sup>2</sup> The 1000 km distance restriction may not apply if it has been extended following a recommendation from a DAF Climate Risk Coordinator. In such cases, the Climate Risk Coordinator will recommend a maximum distance on a case-by-case basis.

## Ineligibility

The subsidy does not apply to:

- any costs associated with transporting animals transported via private vehicles
- any labour costs involved in mustering or transporting the animals
- where you intend to apply for the *Transport of animals purchased for restocking freight subsidy* under the same disaster event <sup>3</sup>
- invoices submitted from entities related to the applicant such as a company owned by the applicant (for example, livestock transported by a company where the applicant has part ownership), and
- the transport of livestock returning to the property of origin.

## Subsidy rates

Subsidy rates are provided for information purposes only; you do not have to make your own calculations. Subsidies will be calculated by DAF and paid out at the following rates:

<i>Hired Carrier</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of the transport cost applies to a maximum charge in line with current average rates as approved by the Climate Risk Coordinator</i>
<i>Rail</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of the transport cost</i>
<i>Ship</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of shipping costs on consignments approved by DAF</i>

## How to apply

Application forms are available online at [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) or can be posted or emailed to you if you contact the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23. Keep a copy of your tax invoices for your records and submit completed application forms and tax invoices to the DAF Brisbane office at the below address. Please post applications to:

*Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Freight Subsidies  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Level 6  
GPO Box 46  
Brisbane Qld 4001*

*Or email: [naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au)*

## Supporting documents

DAF is unable to process freight subsidy applications without copies of all tax invoices that relate to the transport of the animals. Please include copies of all tax invoices with your application. It is useful if the invoices show descriptions, weights, points of purchase and distance travelled. To verify transport could you please include any waybills relating to the movement. Remember to keep a copy of the application for yourself, as tax invoices will not be returned to you unless requested.

## Minimum and maximum payments

The minimum payment for each application is \$25. No payment will be made for any claims under this amount.

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<sup>3</sup> If you elect to utilise subsidies for the removal of stock from your property you cannot claim for restocking movements relating to the same disaster event.

The maximum level of financial assistance available is \$5,000 per property, per disaster event on combined freight subsidies. **For the purposes of this scheme, all properties or land parcels included under a single Property Identification Code (PIC) are considered to be one property.** This scheme does not allow the splitting of partnerships, properties or land parcels to access more than the prescribed maximum amount.

Where you have received a payment that you are not eligible to receive, DAF reserves the right to pursue reimbursement, which may also include reclaiming funds from any future eligible DRFA freight subsidy applications that you submit.

## **Processing times**

DAF aims to process all claims within 21 working days. Incomplete claims or claims that do not clearly meet the eligibility requirements may take longer. To ensure your claim is processed as quickly as possible, please make sure you have provided all of the required information and that you meet the eligibility criteria.

## **Payment method**

DAF's preferred method of payment is direct electronic transfer into your bank account; however, you may request payment by cheque. You can indicate on your form which method you would prefer.

## **Assessment**

DAF will consider all applications for the removal of livestock received within **six months** of the date of transport.

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. DAF reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing and verifying any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in DAF refusing your application. DAF also reserves the right to refuse an application, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.

Applications submitted may be subject to audit by DAF or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

## **Fraudulent applications**

By signing the application form, you are declaring that you have read the guidelines and 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 subsidy.

## **Appeal and review process**

If you are declined assistance because your claim was received by DAF outside of the eligible time limit, you can request a re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and outlines the reasons why your application was late. Payment of a declined claim may be approved at the Minister's discretion, if the Minister considers that there are extenuating circumstances that contributed to the late submission.

If you are declined assistance because DAF officers believe you do not meet the eligibility criteria (for example, DAF officers believe you do not qualify as a 'primary producer' for the purposes of this scheme), you may request re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. You must outline the reasons why you believe you are eligible and include any additional supporting evidence. Payment of a declined claim may be approved at the Minister's discretion, if the Minister considers that the evidence provided by you demonstrates that you meet the eligibility criteria.

## **Producer responsibilities**

While this scheme is to help you to manage the welfare of your animals, it does not discharge you from your legal responsibilities under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. You should continue to manage the welfare of your animals, either by continuing to destock, by supplementary feeding or by carrying water, until such time as conditions on your property improve.

## **Guidelines**

These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing. DAF reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website frequently. The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by DAF.

While DAF has taken all care in preparing these guidelines, DAF will not be liable in any way for any errors, omissions or variation to information in these guidelines or for not advising an applicant of any errors, omissions or variations to information in these guidelines.

DAF may cancel or suspend this scheme at any time without notice.