

North West Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Strategy

Flood Freight Subsidy for Restocking

The Flood Freight Subsidy Restocking and Agistment (FFSRA) scheme is offered under the North West Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Strategy. This Strategy is funded by the joint Commonwealth and State Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) that provide a diverse range of funding relief measures following an eligible disaster. The FFSRA is available to producers in North West Queensland who have been impacted by the North and Far North Monsoon Flooding in January and February 2019. The purpose of the scheme is to assist primary producers whose properties have been impacted to restock as quickly as possible to enable faster economic recovery. The FFSRA is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). The FFSRA will end 24 months after the activation of the North and Far North Monsoon Flooding or when funds have been fully expended.

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, goats or horses that are not normally hand-fed).
- Your property resides in one of the following northwest Queensland local government areas impacted by the North and Far North Monsoon Flooding:
 - Burke Shire Council
 - Carpentaria Shire Council
 - Charters Towers Regional Council
 - Cloncurry Shire Council
 - Etheridge Shire Council
 - Flinders Shire Council
 - McKinlay Shire Council
 - Richmond Shire Council; or
 - Winton Shire Council
- Livestock you owned were either lost, humanely destroyed or died as a result of the heavy monsoon rainfall and flood event.
- The livestock subject to this subsidy were purchased after the flood event.
- The restocking movement has occurred within 24 months of the activation of your Local Government Authority for Category D DRFA assistance.
- The introduced livestock do not increase stock numbers on the property beyond the numbers on hand prior to the natural disaster event.
- The livestock were transported by the shortest practicable route, up to a maximum distance of 2,000km.
- The livestock were transported by hired carrier or rail.
- Your application is received in Brisbane within **six months** of the date the livestock were transported to your property.

The subsidy applies to:

- The transport costs of the animals purchased for restocking on your property after the flood event.

Ineligibility

The subsidy does not apply:

- when livestock were transported onto your property before the flood event.
- when livestock were transported onto your property after 24 months of the activation for Category D DRFA assistance.
- when livestock have been transferred between properties under the same ownership.
- to invoices submitted from entities related to the applicant, such as a family member or company owned by the applicant (for example, livestock purchased from a company owned by the applicant).
- when you have applied for and received restocking freight subsidy assistance for the transport of the animals purchased for restocking under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) or the Category B disaster freight subsidy.
- when you have applied for and received the Special Disaster Assistance Grant or the Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants through the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) with the same invoices for the transport of animals purchased for restocking.
- for any costs associated with the purchase of livestock.

Verifying animals lost due to natural disaster

To verify that animals you owned either died, were lost or were humanely destroyed because of the North and Far North Monsoon Flooding, property owners must provide details on the application form of the approximate number of animals that died, were lost or were humanely destroyed because of the impacts of either the flood or monsoonal rain.

Introduction of livestock to your property whilst drought declared

This subsidy for FFSRA is eligible when livestock have been returned, introduced or agisted even if the property is currently drought-declared. However, when this occurs, the number of livestock introduced must not exceed the number of livestock on the property before the natural disaster event. If livestock numbers increase access to all DRAS assistance measures will be suspended from the date the animals are introduced to the property and for an additional 16 weeks after the livestock, or an equivalent number, have left the property.

All suspensions are lifted from the property when the drought declaration is revoked.

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 total freight cost to a maximum charge in line with current average rates as identified by DAF.</i>
<i>Rail</i>	<i>50% of the total freight cost</i>

All subsidies will be paid out to a maximum charge in line with the current average rates per 12.2 m deck as approved by DAF. Other deck lengths are calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Companies who own the property and use vehicles from a subsidiary company are not eligible for this rebate.

A sheep-to-cattle ratio of 7:1 applies when restocking changes from one species to another.

How to apply

Application forms and guidelines are available online at 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:

Flood Freight Subsidy Restocking and Agistment
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Level 6
GPO Box 46
Brisbane Qld 4001

Or email to: naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au

Supporting documents

DAF is unable to process applications without copies of all tax invoices and waybills or National Vendor Declarations and National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) records that relate to the transport of the livestock purchased for restocking. Please include copies of all tax invoices with your application. Remember to keep a copy of the application for yourself, as tax invoices and other documentation will not be returned to you.

For **hired carrier** transport, please attach documentation showing proof of purchase of livestock, including date of purchase, number and class of livestock, and place of purchase. Please also attach freight tax invoices for all livestock movements and waybills detailing the number and class of stock, and the date of movement.

For **rail** transport, please attach all tax invoices and waybills.

Minimum and maximum payments

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

The maximum level of financial assistance available under FFSRA is \$50,000 per property per year. **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 include reclaiming funds from any future eligible assistance measures that are administered by DAF and/or requesting direct payment on ineligible assistance received.

Processing times

DAF aims to process 90 per cent of 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 transport of livestock purchased for restocking freight subsidy 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 any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application. This may extend to NLIS records and livestock trading accounts. 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.

By applying for the FFSRA you authorise and give consent to the DAF to share and/or obtain information, including personal information, relating to the provision of financial assistance to you, including through a subsidy, grant or other similar program for the provision of funding for similar transport activities from the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and/or Emergency Management Australia (EMA). Please note that DAF, QRIDA, QRA and EMA may also need to cross-reference your information from previous or current financial assistance packages, such as for restocking, replanting or infrastructure, for compliance and reporting purposes.

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

Fraudulent applications

By signing the application 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 subsidy.

Appeal and review process

If you are declined FFSRA 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 Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and outlining 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 FFSRA 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'), you may request re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and outlining the reasons why you believe you are eligible and including 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 restock your property after a natural disaster event, 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 managing stocking numbers, by supplementary feeding until pastures recover 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.