

# Dam Desilting Rebate for Graziers

Administered by the Queensland Government. Jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments

The Dam Desilting Rebate is offered by the Australian Government as part of its On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme and is administered by the Queensland Government (in Queensland). The Dam Desilting Rebate is jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments.

**The Dam Desilting Rebate will end on 30 June 2022 or sooner if the funds provided for this rebate are expended.**

**The rebate is up to 25% up to a maximum of \$25,000 for eligible invoices.**

This rebate up until 1 October 2020 was funded by the Australian Government. From 2 October 2020 until 30 June 2022 the rebate is cost shared between the Australian and Queensland Governments with the Queensland Government contribution being funded under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). Funds contributed by the Queensland Government under DRAS will be subject to the maximum limits per property per financial year for all DRAS eligible subsidies and rebates.

## 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 State drought-declared area or had a current Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration on the date of the tax invoice for the dam desilting.
- The desilted dam is primarily used for grazing livestock on your property.
- You have provided a Dam Desilting Statement that includes photos of your dam, a quote from a business to undertake the dam desilting activity and a map of your property. This statement must be approved and signed by a DAF officer who endorses your claim outlining the cost that will be considered for a rebate.
- The dam desilting has been completed within **six months** of the date of endorsement on your Dam Desilting Statement.
- Your application is received in Brisbane within **six months** of the tax invoice date for the dam desilting<sup>1</sup>.
- You have paid the tax invoice for dam desilting in full.

## Eligible activities

This rebate applies to:

- professional contracting costs associated with desilting of your dam on your drought declared property

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<sup>1</sup> Consideration may be given to applications submitted outside of the standard six month time frame if the application was unable to be submitted due to the closure of the previous iteration of the scheme. Invoices from 11 September 2019 to 31 May 2021 have until 30 November 2021 to be lodged. Applicants with invoices dated from 1 June 2021 onwards have six months from the date of the invoice to lodge their application.

- any reasonable travel costs for the desilting contractors.

## Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply when:

- dams were desilted before 1 July 2018 or invoices are more than six months old<sup>1</sup>
- the dam desilted is primarily used for other purposes than to supply water for grazing livestock (for example, to provide water for irrigation, intensive livestock or domestic use)
- extending an existing dam or enlarging a dam beyond its original size
- creating a new dam
- constructing or repairing other dam infrastructure, such as dam banks, drains, earthen retaining walls or breached dam banks.

The rebate does not apply to:

- wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour or machinery costs, such as fuel
- costs or labour associated with establishing a new dam or making dams larger
- invoices from entities related to the applicant (for example, dam desilting undertaken by family members of the applicant or companies/partnerships owned by the applicant or that the applicant has an interest in)
- costs that are excessive or superfluous to requirements
- costs incurred that are not included in your Dam Desilting Statement.

For the purpose of this scheme, a dam is a man-made excavation or earthen barrier designed to store water for livestock. This excludes ponded pasture systems, irrigation dams, sand troughs or excavations in natural streams, creeks or rivers

## Rebate amount

The Dam Desilting rebate is up to **25 per cent** of the cost of a private contractor to desilt your dam and the costs that are assessed as reasonable by the DAF officer.<sup>2</sup>

## How to apply

1. Before you spend any money on dam desilting, you must obtain an endorsed Dam Desilting Statement. This provides assurance that the proposed desilting activity is within the typical range of costs for dam desilting.

Complete the Dam Desilting Statement, include a property map, photos of the dam and a written quote and post to your local DAF officer (listed below) or email [droughtdeclarations@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:droughtdeclarations@daf.qld.gov.au) for endorsement:

<p><b>Northern Queensland</b>          (Aurukun, Burdekin, Burke, Cairns, Carpentaria, Cassowary Coast, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Cook, Croydon, Doomadgee, Douglas, Etheridge, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, McKinlay, Mapoon, Mareeba, Mornington, Mount Isa, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Richmond, Tablelands, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Townsville, Weipa, Wujal Wujal)</p>	<p><i>Climate Risk Coordinator</i>  <b>DAF</b>  <b>PO Box 976</b>  <b>Charters Towers Qld 4820</b></p>
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<sup>2</sup> From 2 October 2020 the 25 per cent rebate will be funded between the Queensland and Australian Governments. This funding arrangement may impact your amount of allowable funding under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). Please refer to the Minimum and Maximum Payment section of this guideline for further information.

<b>Central Queensland</b> (Banana, Central Highlands, Gladstone, Isaac, Livingstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Whitsunday, Woorabinda)	<i>Climate Risk Coordinator          DAF          PO Box 6014          Red Hill          Rockhampton Qld 4701</i>
<b>Western Queensland</b> (Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Diamantina, Longreach, Winton)	<i>Climate Risk Coordinator          DAF          PO Box 519          Longreach Qld 4730</i>
<b>Southern Queensland</b> (Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Southern Downs, Toowoomba, Western Downs)	<i>Climate Risk Coordinator          DAF          PO Box 102          Toowoomba Qld 4350</i>
<b>South East Queensland</b> (Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cherbourg, Fraser Coast, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, North Burnett, Redland, Scenic Rim, Somerset, South Burnett, Sunshine Coast)	<i>Climate Risk Coordinator          DAF          PO Box 23          Kingaroy Qld 4610</i>

2. When you have an endorsed Dam Desilting Statement, arrange for a contractor to desilt your dam within six months of the date of endorsement on your statement.
3. Once the dam is desilted, complete the Dam Desilting Rebate Application Form and attach all necessary documentation, including a copy of the endorsed Dam Desilting Statement, tax invoices and photos of your recently desilted dam. It is recommended that the photos of your desilted dam are taken as soon as desilting has been completed and before the dam is filled with water.
4. Submit your application to DAF for processing by emailing **droughtdeclarations@daf.gov.au** or post to:

Dam Desilting Rebate  
 Drought Policy and Response  
 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
 Level 12  
 GPO Box 46  
 Brisbane Qld 4001

You may submit more than one application to ensure that your tax invoices are received in Brisbane within six months of the tax invoice date for the desilting. **All tax invoices must have been paid in full.**

If at any time during the application process you need assistance completing the forms or you are unsure of your eligibility requirements you are encouraged to contact the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 or email DAF at **droughtdeclarations@daf.qld.gov.au**.

### Supporting documents

DAF is unable to process your rebate application without copies of all corresponding tax invoices that relate to your dam desilting claim. Please include copies of all tax invoices with your application. Please also supply photographs showing the desilted dam as soon as desilting has been completed. Remember to keep a copy of the application for yourself, as tax invoices and photos will not be returned to you.

### Minimum and maximum payments

**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.

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

The maximum amount that can be obtained is up to 25 percent of eligible tax invoices, to a maximum of \$25,000 for any combination of any payments for the Australian Government On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) top up, any payments for Dam Desilting Rebate for Graziers and any payments for the Permanent Horticulture Tree Crops – New Bores and Dam Desilting Rebate in each of the financial years 2020-21 or 2021-22, or sooner should Australian Government funds be exhausted.

Between 1 April 2020 until 1 October 2020, the Dam Desilting Rebate will be paid by the Australian Government at up to 25 percent of eligible tax invoices, to a maximum of \$25,000 for any combination of any payments for the Australian Government On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) top up, any payments for Dam Desilting Rebate for Graziers and any payments for the Permanent Horticulture Tree Crops – New Bores and Dam Desilting Rebate for the financial year 2020-21.

From 2 October 2020 until 30 June 2022, or earlier should the Australian Government funds be exhausted, the Dam Desilting Rebate is jointly funded between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

From 2 October 2020, the Australian Government rebate consists of up to 12.5 per cent of the eligible tax invoices to a maximum of \$12,500 per Property Identification Code (PIC) per financial year for any combination of any payments for the Australian Government On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) top up, any payments for Dam Desilting Rebate for Graziers and any payments for the Permanent Horticulture Tree Crops – New Bores and Dam Desilting Rebate.

The Queensland Government rebate consists of up to 12.5 percent of the eligible tax invoices to a maximum of \$12,500 for the Dam Desilting Rebate for Graziers and the Permanent Horticulture Tree Crops – New Bores and Dam Desilting Rebate. The Queensland Government rebate is funded under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) and is thus also subject to the maximum amount that can be claimed from DRAS per financial year.

The maximum level of financial assistance available under DRAS is initially \$20,000 per Property Identification Code (PIC), per financial year.

The initial \$20,000 limit for DRAS may be extended to \$30,000 per property per financial year if a Drought Management Plan (DMP) for your property is endorsed by a DAF officer. Once a DMP is endorsed, the \$30,000 ceiling applies to the entirety of the current financial year and subsequent financial years. When a property with an endorsed DMP is in its third or subsequent year of being drought declared, the maximum allowable limit per financial year increases from \$30,000 to \$40,000. When a property with an endorsed DMP is in its sixth and subsequent year of being drought declared, the maximum allowable limit per financial year increases to \$50,000.

Payment for both the Australian Government and Queensland Government components of the Dam Desilting Rebate is conditional on funding being available from the Australian Government.

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 DRAS applications that you submit.

## **Processing times**

DAF aims to process 90 per cent of correctly submitted claims within 21 working days. Incomplete claims or claims that do not clearly meet the eligibility requirements may take longer. Please ensure you meet the eligibility criteria and that you have provided all of the required information to help DAF process the claim quickly.

## **Payment method**

DAF's default and 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**

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 help assess your application and to verify information provided in your application including that invoices have been paid. 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.

DAF may consult with members of your local drought committee and may consult with the Australian Government to assist in assessing your claim.

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

## **Fraudulent applications**

You are declaring the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate by signing the application form. Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply. If 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 unable to arrange for a contractor to desilt your dam within the six months after the endorsement date on your Dam Desilting Statement, you may request an extension by contacting the DAF officer who endorsed the statement.

If you are unsuccessful in obtaining an endorsed Dam Desilting Statement or disagree with the conditions of your Dam Desilting Statement, you may request a review of the decision by lodging a request with DAF. Your application will either be reviewed by the State Climate Risk Coordinator or by the Director, Drought Policy and Response. If you are not satisfied with the subsequent review of your Dam Desilting Statement, then you may appeal the decision by writing to the Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.

If you are declined assistance because your claim was received by DAF outside of the eligible time limit, you can request a reconsideration by writing to the Queensland 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 dam desilting 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 a reconsideration by writing to the Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and outlining 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 your property including 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 transporting 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 provide information regarding your application to the Australian Government if requested by the Australian Government.

DAF or the Australian Government may amend, cancel or suspend this scheme at any time without notice.