

# Recovering from drought – what assistance is available?

You may be eligible for assistance to help restock, once conditions on your property have improved. Find out below what you need to consider to ensure you have access to the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) drought recovery assistance.

## What assistance is available to help with drought recovery?

Freight subsidy assistance under DRAS is available for the transport of livestock returning from agistment and livestock purchased for restocking.

Properties must be revoked from drought to access this assistance. If you are forced from agistment you may be eligible for a subsidy if you are still drought declared. Please contact DAF to discuss your options.

## Drought declarations and revocations

A drought declaration is an official acknowledgment by government that an area or individual property is affected by poor seasonal conditions. In Queensland, a declaration can be either:

- a local government area or part local government area declaration
- an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration.

A local government area drought declaration or revocation is made by the Queensland Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, based on the advice of Local Drought Committees (LDCs).

An IDP declaration is approved by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) when a primary producer submits an IDP application that meets the necessary criteria.

LDCs meet to discuss the drought status of each area at the end of each summer rainfall period. Recommendations are made to the Minister and declarations or revocations of areas can occur.

Current area declarations can be found at [www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au).

## My local government area is still drought declared but my property has recovered

In order to access drought recovery assistance, you can request to be individually revoked from the area declaration status if you consider your property has recovered from the drought.

Before you apply to have your property's drought-declared status revoked, make sure you have enough pasture and water to last a minimum of 12 months at normal or near-normal stocking rates.

Once the status is revoked, your property will not be eligible for an individual drought declaration for 12 months. After 12 months, your property will need to meet the eligibility criteria in order to become drought declared.

Download the application form for a revocation from the DAF website [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23 to be sent a copy of the form.

## **Introducing stock back onto your property**

You may be considering bringing livestock back onto your property after recent good rainfall. However, you need to make sure this doesn't affect the assistance you receive through DRAS.

Before you introduce stock onto your property, please check your property's current drought status at [www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

To be eligible for freight subsidy assistance through DRAS for restocking and the return of livestock from agistment, the drought declaration on your property must be revoked before livestock are moved back on.

Livestock producers should check the DRAS guidelines and assess their situation before they restock if they want to access DRAS recovery assistance. Revocations cannot be back-dated. Please contact DAF to discuss your options.

## **Subsidy Rates**

Eligible applicants may receive up to 100% of the freight costs for breeding stock returning from agistment and up to 75% of freight costs for animals purchased for restocking, for up to two years after the date of revocation. DRAS payments are subject to a maximum amount per annum.

## **More Information**

For more information please visit [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) or contact DAF on 13 25 23.