



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water



ACT
Government

On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme Guidelines

An ACT and Australian Government jointly funded rebate
scheme for producers and horticulture farmers in the ACT

About the program

The ACT and Australian Government are offering a rebate to primary producers and horticultural farmers to purchase and install new on-farm water infrastructure, or repair and replace damaged infrastructure. These rebates address animal welfare needs, permanent planting needs, recovery from natural disasters and improve resilience to drought. Recipients will be required to demonstrate that they are from the grazing or horticulture industries, and they are drought affected or impacted by an eligible natural disaster.

Drought and natural disasters in the ACT

The ACT Government does not declare certain areas as affected by drought or natural disasters. This recognises the small size of the ACT. However, farmers within the ACT are recovering from the cumulative impact of extended dry conditions, followed by floodings and other severe weather events which fall within the eligibility requirements of the Australian Government's program.

The scheme is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Government.). Applications are now open until Monday 8 April 2024 or when funding is fully allocated.

Objectives

To provide a 25% rebate to partially reimburse ACT rural landholders for the cost associated with the purchase and installation of critical on farm water-related infrastructure for watering livestock and for supporting existing permanent horticultural plantings.

Benefits of the scheme include reducing the impact of drought and natural disasters strengthening farms to:

- address animal welfare needs during drought,
- assist primary producers and horticultural farmers to be more resilient for future droughts,
- assist primary producers and horticultural farmers to be more productive through the installation of new water infrastructure, and
- assisting in mitigating the degradation of natural watering points.

Funding available

A 25% rebate to eligible rural landholders towards the costs associated with the purchase and installation of new infrastructure, or repair/replacement of damaged infrastructure due to natural disasters occurring after (1 January 2022). All rebates are only associated to on-farm water infrastructure for livestock watering and/or permanent planting needs.

Up to \$25,000 is available per property and per financial year that the scheme is available for:

- New water infrastructure for livestock purchased after 30 June 2018
- Repair or replacement of damaged livestock water infrastructure after 1 January 2022
- New water infrastructure for permanent horticulture plantings purchased after 30 June 2019
- Repair or replacement of damaged water infrastructure for permanent horticulture plantings after 31 December 2021

Who can apply?

- An ACT rural leaseholder
- You own farm livestock in the ACT (cattle, sheep, horses, goats, chickens)
- You own and manage existing permanent horticulture plantings such as olives, grapes, truffles or orchards in the ACT
- Emergency water infrastructure for livestock or permanent plantings is installed on a rural property in the ACT.

Eligible activities

Eligible infrastructure for emergency stock water for farm livestock applies to:

- new water infrastructure purchased after 30 June 2018, or in the case of damaged infrastructure after 1 January 2022
- the purchase and installation, repair, or replacement of:
 - pipes
 - water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering
 - water pumps and associated water distribution systems
- the drilling of new stock and horticulture water bores and associated power supply such as generators
- desilting dams or repair to dams caused by an emergency
- other activities as agreed by the Commonwealth and consistent with the output and purpose of the Program.

Eligible infrastructure for horticulture farmers applies to:

- new water infrastructure purchased after 30 June 2019, or in the case of damaged infrastructure, after 31 December 2021
- the purchase and installation, repair, or replacement of:
 - the drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores and:
 - desilting dams or repair to dams caused by an emergency
- other activities as agreed by the Commonwealth and consistent with the output and purpose of the Program

Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply to:

- any new purchases made prior to 30 June 2018 or for damaged infrastructure, purchases made prior to 31 December 2021.
- water infrastructure purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock or permanent horticulture plantings, i.e. excludes water infrastructure associated with crop [pasture] or fodder irrigation; (i.e. non-permanent horticulture plantings).
- water infrastructure costs financed by the Australian Government or the ACT Government under another grant program.
- normal wages paid to an employee or your self-assessed labour or machinery costs, such as the cost of fuel.
- construction of new dams or modification of an existing dam (except for desilting and repair).

- other types of on-farm infrastructure that do not relate to improving water security.
- any invoices from entities related to the applicant (for example, water infrastructure purchased from family members of the applicant or companies/partnerships owned by the applicant or that the applicant has an interest in).

How to apply

Once you have purchased and installed your water infrastructure:

- complete an On–Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme Claim Form
- provide a copy of tax invoices and associated receipts demonstrating payment
- provide location information and before and after photos of the site where the infrastructure has been installed or implemented.

Applications must be received NO later than, 5pm Monday 8 April 2024

Submitting your application

Claim forms and supporting documents can be submitted by email, post or in person to:

Email: Jenilee.cumberland@act.gov.au or Jarrods.ruch@act.gov.au

Post:

Attention Jenilee Cumberland
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
ACT NRM
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

In person:

Attention Jenilee Cumberland
ACT NRM, Level 2 Naas
480 Northbourne Ave
Dickson ACT

For further information contact:

Jarrold Ruch

Mobile: 0403 673 998

Email: jarrods.ruch@act.gov.au

Or

Jeni Cumberland

Mobile: 0407 321 784

Email: Jenilee.cumberland@act.gov.au

Payment method

Method of payment is direct electronic transfer into your nominated bank account provided in your claim form.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. The ACT Government reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in refusal of your application. The ACT Government 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 the ACT Government or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

Completed applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

Fraudulent claims

By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate. 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 funds.

Guidelines

These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing. The ACT government 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. While we have taken all care in preparing these guidelines, the ACT Government 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.

The ACT Government may cancel or suspend this scheme at any time without notice.