

Assistance for primary producers affected by northern Queensland heavy rainfall and flooding December 2018

Joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) activation

Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declarations

As at 17 December 2018 no areas have been activated under the DRFA for primary producer assistance. Primary producers who have suffered significant damage as a result of the event may apply for an Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration. To be eligible for an IDSP, an assessment of the damage must be made by a DAF Officer. Once approved, primary producers are eligible to apply for DAF freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 and QRIDA loans of up to \$250,000 to assist with repairs and recovery. IDSP application forms can be found here:

<https://forms.business.gov.au/aba/landing.htm?formCode=QldGov3-IDSP>

An IDSP does not make a primary producer eligible for Category C recovery grants.

Category B freight subsidies (NOT ACTIVATED FOR THIS EVENT)

DRFA Category B assistance provides primary producers with access to freight subsidies for the movement of materials to assist recovery. Freight subsidies may be made available for movement of materials such as:

- emergency fodder for livestock located at the home property
- building and fencing materials, and
- machinery and equipment movements.

A maximum freight subsidy payment per property of up to 50 per cent to a maximum of \$5,000 applies on combined restocking, fodder, building and fencing materials, and machinery and equipment movements.

Freight subsidies are available through DAF and the guidelines and forms for freight subsidies can be found here:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/disaster-assistance-forms-and-guidelines>

Category B natural disaster loans (NOT ACTIVATED FOR THIS EVENT)

DRFA Category B assistance provides primary producers with access to Natural Disaster loans of up to \$250,000 at a concessional rate. The loans can assist primary producers in re-establishing their enterprise by covering costs such as:

- repairing or replacing damaged plant and equipment
- repairing or replacing buildings
- purchasing livestock to replace those lost in the disaster event
- meeting carry-on requirements including:
 - re-planting, restoring or re-establishing areas affected by the disaster event
 - sustenance
 - essential property operations
 - paying rent and rates.

Natural Disaster loans are available through QRIDA and details can be found at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-loans.

Category B essential working capital loans (NOT ACTIVATED FOR THIS EVENT)

DRFA Category B assistance provides primary producers with access to Essential Working Capital loans of up to \$100,000 at a concessional rate. The loans can assist primary producers that have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of the recent disaster but have not suffered direct damage. The loan is to be used as essential working capital; money that is necessary to continue the normal operation of the primary production enterprise and can be used for covering costs such as:

- paying salaries or wages
- paying creditors
- paying rent or rates
- buying goods such as fuel, and
- buying fodder or water for livestock or produce, or transporting livestock or produce.

Essential Working Capital loans are available through QRIDA and details can be found at www.qrida.qld.gov.au/natural-disaster-loans/natural-disaster-assistance-essential-working-capital.

Category C and Category D Natural Disaster Recovery Grants Scheme and Category D exceptional disaster assistance (NOT ACTIVATED FOR THIS EVENT)

Category C recovery grants provides primary producers with access to grants of up to \$25,000 to aid with eligible clean up and restoration activities following a severe natural disaster. Category C grants are not a standard assistance measure and their activation in response to a disaster requires the written approval of the Prime Minister. **Category C assistance has not been activated for this event.**

Category D exceptional disaster assistance relief measures are tailored to the recovery requirements of the event. Activation of Category D requires the approval of the Prime Minister. Category D will only be introduced when the nature and severity of the event is such that standard assistance under Category B and special disaster assistance under Category C will be insufficient to assist with recovery. The type of assistance measure that may be available will be designed to fit the event. **Category D has not been activated for this event.**

Animal welfare and extension assistance

DAF provides a range of extension and animal welfare advice to primary producers who have been affected by a natural disaster. DAF can also assist in identifying owners of misplaced livestock. People finding lost livestock can provide the ear tag information to the DAF Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23. The animals' owners will be contacted to let them know where their animals are located.

For those agricultural facilities such as dairies and piggeries that have lost power, generators are generally available for purchase from retailers or through equipment hire companies. In larger scale events when there are many producers without power for prolonged periods because of a natural disaster, DAF may help coordinate access to a generator to facilities. All costs associated with the generator are borne by the producer, however the producer may be able to claim for freight subsidy assistance for the transport of such a generator.

Farm clean up

Primary producers are responsible for cleaning up their own property and will incur all costs associated with the clean-up. However producers may be able to claim for freight subsidy assistance

for the transport of machinery used to clear debris. Guidelines and forms for freight subsidies can be found here at

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/disaster-assistance-forms-and-guidelines>

Primary producers who require assistance in cleaning up should contact their local Shire/Regional Council to discuss their needs. Council can discuss the options available and may be able to identify volunteers to assist.

Following previous exceptional natural disaster events such as Severe Tropical Cyclone Larry and Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi, Farm Clean Up programs were provided through DAF to assist primary producers in debris clearing. Funding for these one-off programs was provided through a special DRFA Category D exceptional disaster assistance activation. **Category D is not currently activated for any Local Government Area.**

Contacts

For more information on assistance available through DAF, office hours and regional officer locations please contact the DAF Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 or visit www.daf.qld.gov.au.

For more information on assistance available through QRIDA and regional officer locations please contact QRIDA on 1800 623 946.

For more support information, follow us on Facebook Queensland Agriculture and Twitter @QldAgriculture.