Emergency Response in Primary Industries Grant Guidelines

1 About the Program

The objective of this assistance measure made under agreements between the Commonwealth and relevant State Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, is to assist primary producers directly affected by the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster events (eligible events commencing August 2019), with costs associated with immediate recovery activities needed to rebuild their primary production enterprises.

The Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants provides a grant to primary producers to help pay for costs of clean-up and other emergency measures including disposing of dead stock, and rebuilding or replacing damaged or destroyed on-farm infrastructure.

The Australian Government has made the grant assistance received under this scheme non-assessable, non-exempt income.

The assistance provided is available for eligible Primary Producer businesses located within the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Murray Bridge, Mid Murray, Yorke Peninsula and Kingston District council areas who have suffered direct damage from a bushfire disaster in 2019/20.
2 Available Funding and Supporting Evidence

The maximum grant amount for clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures is $75,000.

Should an initial application be for less than the maximum grant amount, further applications may be submitted (by the closing date) if additional expenditure is required to complete clean-up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures.

Evidence in support of claims for grants must include:

a) a written list of bushfire-related damage with cost estimates for each item; and
b) photographic evidence of the direct bushfire-related impacts, and
c) for expenses already incurred, documented evidence of actual expenditure (including official receipts and official invoices),
d) evidence that demonstrates the applicant meets relevant eligibility criteria, and
e) any other information deemed appropriate.

3 How Funding May Be Used

Grants are provided to help pay for the costs of clean up, reinstatement activities and emergency measures associated with the immediate recovery of primary production enterprises. Eligible claims may cover:

a) Hiring, leasing or purchase of equipment and/or materials to undertake clean-up
b) Additional labour costs (above and beyond normal wage expenditure, i.e. day-to-day staffing)
c) Disposing of damaged goods and injured or dead livestock, including associated costs
d) Repairing a building or repairing or replacing fittings in a building, if the repair or replacement is essential for resuming operation of the primary production enterprise. (Funding is not available for repairs to a building that is used as a dwelling, unless it is used for carrying on the primary production enterprise, for example staff accommodation)
e) Repairing or replacing fencing and horticultural netting (not covered by other assistance)
f) Reconditioning/repairing essential plant and equipment, including repairing damage to, or replacing, water tanks, de-silting dams, water reticulation systems, forestry equipment, aquaculture and fishing equipment

g) Salvaging (but not replacing) crops, grain, feed, fertiliser and timber

h) Health assessment, treatment and maintenance for livestock, poultry and aquaculture species

i) Purchase of fodder, grain, and feeds for livestock and poultry, and/or stock agistment costs, and associated transport costs (not covered by other assistance)

j) Purchase or hire/lease costs for equipment essential to the immediate resumption of the business (e.g. energy equipment such as generators and solar panels for non-residential purposes)

k) Replacement of essential water used for firefighting purposes

l) Water cartage

m) Payment for tradespeople to conduct safety inspections.

4 Eligibility Criteria

4.1 To be eligible for the grant, the applicant must:

a) be a primary producer (as defined in section 7 below); and

b) hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the disaster; and

c) have a primary production enterprise (as defined in section 7 below) located in the defined area for the eligible disaster that has suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster; and

d) have been engaged in carrying on the primary production enterprise when affected by the eligible disaster; and

e) have lodged an application by 31 July 2020; and

f) intend to re-establish the primary production enterprise.

4.2 An applicant may also be eligible for a grant if both of the following apply:

a) the applicant’s primary production enterprise is located outside the defined disaster area for the eligible disaster but is carried on at least sometimes on a regular basis in the area; and
b) plant or equipment of the primary production enterprise situated in the defined disaster area has been damaged or livestock has died as a result of the eligible disaster.

4.3 Where an applicant’s income from primary production is less than 50 per cent of their total income, the applicant may nonetheless be eligible for a grant if it can be demonstrated that:

a) in the ordinary course of business the applicant would meet that requirement, but:
   i. their primary production income is currently reduced due to drought; and/or
   ii. due to long lead times to full production, (e.g. an orchard or vineyard is in early stages of development), the applicant expects to earn such an amount of income within a three year period; and

b) the applicant’s total off-farm income (per person) is less than $100,000 gross per annum.

4.4 Applicants will not be eligible for a grant, or part of a grant, if:

a) the applicant does not meet the criteria as outlined above; or

b) the applicant has received, or has been approved to receive, financial assistance for costs associated with the items from another government assistance scheme, however the applicant may be eligible for a grant for costs that are not covered by the other scheme; or

c) the applicant is entitled to receive a payment under an insurance policy for costs directly associated with an item, however the applicant may be eligible for a grant for costs that are not covered by their insurance, or for amounts in excess of the value insured; or

d) another party to the primary production enterprise, (for example a party holding a separate ABN number), has already applied for a grant under this program.

All claims for assistance will be assessed on a case by case basis.

5 Eligible Separate Businesses

Applicants who operate their primary production enterprise under a single ABN on separate properties in different locations may apply for assistance up to the maximum amount available for the eligible disaster for each eligible business.

Consideration of eligible separate primary production enterprises may cover:
a) the staffing arrangements of the separate primary production enterprises;

b) whether the primary production enterprises have their own plant, equipment or stock;

c) the accounting arrangements of the separate primary production enterprises;

d) whether the separate primary production enterprises operate under their own trading names;

e) the commercial scale, viability and autonomy of each primary production enterprise.

6. Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants will be required to:

   a) provide any additional information required by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) to assess an application, including assessment of losses arising from the disaster event; and

   b) agree to subsequent audits under the scheme including permission for on-farm access to confirm that grant and co-contribution funding provided have been expended on approved purposes.

For further information on Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants, please contact:

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Telephone: 1800 931 314

Email: PIRSA.Recovery@sa.gov.au

Website: PIRSA Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants 2019-20
7 Definitions

**Direct damage means** a direct and material impact of fire or bushfire-related firefighting activities (including the loss of water used in firefighting activities), on business assets or equipment, including livestock.

**Defined area for an eligible disaster** is a Local Government Area that has been activated under Category C of Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance for primary producers.

**Eligible separate business:** An eligible separate business means a commercial entity that would be a commercially viable and autonomous business if other businesses operated by the primary production enterprise ceased to operate.

**Primary producer means:**

a) a sole trader who spends part of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from a primary production enterprise in agriculture (including aquaculture, horticulture and viticulture), fisheries, hunting or trapping, private forestry or apiary; or

b) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust who spend part of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the primary production enterprise.

(Note: assistance will be considered for primary producers as described under the Australian New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC) 1292.0 (Revision 2.0) Codes 01 (Agriculture), 02 (Aquaculture), 03 (Forestry and Logging), 04 (Fishing, Hunting and Trapping) and 05 (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services).)

**Primary production enterprise** means:

a) is established under the legal structure of a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company; and

b) is carried on by a primary producer and trades in a primary production industry, including the agricultural (including aquaculture, horticulture and viticulture), fisheries, hunting or trapping, private forestry or apiary industries; and

c) undertakes all primary production aspects of the business wholly in Australia; and

d) is registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN) and is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST); and
e) is not under external administration or bankruptcy; and

f) is not a public company under the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

**Official invoice** means

a) an invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant.

**Official receipt** means

b) a receipt including the name and address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the receipt and a description of each item to which the receipt relates.