

FACT SHEET

Support measures for primary producers

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFA-WA) Category B measures offer four (4) areas of support where primary producers do not have the resources to provide for their own recovery:

- Interest rate subsidy;
- freight subsidy;
- fencing subsidy; and,
- professional advice grant.

In Western Australia, primary producer assistance measures are administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES); information can be found on DPIRD's website at www.agric.wa.gov.au/wandrra or contact DPIRD on 1800 198 231.

Interest Rate Subsidy

Primary producers may be eligible to receive an interest rate subsidy on new loans. The new loan must be taken out by the primary producer for the purposes of repairing damaged assets or business carry on costs incurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster. The loan must be provided by an Authorised Deposit taking Institution (ADI), such as your bank, building society or credit union.

The DRFA-WA provides an interest rate subsidy, currently set at 4% with the subsidy payments:

- capped at a maximum of \$6,000 (being 4% of a loan maximum of \$150,000); and,
- a maximum period of ten years, of which the first two years may be free of capital repayments at the discretion of the ADI.

In cases where no capital repayments or minimal capital repayments are made from the third year onwards a 'notional' deduction of 1/10th of the original loan principal will be deducted for each year for which the subsidy is available.

DRFA-WA will fund the interest rate subsidy, annually in advance, based upon the satisfactory submission of a claim form after the anniversary date of the loan commencement. The claim form must be supported by documented evidence of the loan balance on or shortly after the anniversary data.

Primary producers in receipt of the subsidy must notify the DFES Disaster Recovery Funding Officers of any changes to the loan arrangement immediately.

DPIRD will liaise with primary producers directly through the assessment process. Pending eligibility criteria being met, DFES will provide correspondence confirming eligibility to access the interest rate subsidy relief measure and further instruction on loan application procedures.

Freight subsidy

Section 4.3.2 (k) of the DRFA-WA refers to a freight subsidy to primary producers whose assets have been significantly damaged.

FACT SHEET

The subsidy reimburses the primary producers a maximum of 50 per cent of the costs to the producer of transporting any of the following as a direct result of the eligible disaster:

- i. livestock;
- ii. fodder or water for livestock; and,
- iii. building or fencing equipment or machinery.

Fencing subsidy

The Western Australian State Government provides assistance to support primary producers who have livestock on a property that borders a major road/rail transport corridor. Although this is not a clause in the Commonwealth arrangement, the Western Australian State Government has identified the need for this assistance measure.

This assistance reimburses the primary producer 100% of the costs associated with any of the following:

- restoration/replacement of fencing (to pre-disaster standard) where the fencing has been deliberately dismantled or damaged due to counter disaster operations activities undertaken in order to combat the eligible disaster event; and/or
- reimbursement of the costs of materials only (to pre-disaster standard) to repair/replace boundary fencing damaged/lost as a direct result of the eligible disaster event, where the fencing adjoins a major road/rail transport corridor and where the roaming of livestock may present a danger to the travelling public (i.e., the aim being to preserve public safety).

In respect of the latter dot-point, for a claim to be considered under this measure the applicant must demonstrate to DPIRD's satisfaction that, at the time of the eligible disaster event, the property was being used to hold or agist livestock. A property that was used solely for cropping purposes at the time of the eligible disaster event would not be eligible for fencing assistance under the DRFA-WA.

As the intent of this measure is to ensure public safety, to be eligible, all works must be undertaken as soon as is practicable after the impact of the eligible disaster event. It must also be noted that where a claimant has insurance and the insurance policy includes fencing, the claim must be lodged with the insurer and not via the DRFA-WA.

Professional advice grant

Section 4.2.2 (g) of the DRFA-WA provides emergency assistance for personal and financial counselling. In Western Australia this measure provides reimbursement of fees to a limit of \$1,500 to obtain professional advice directly relating to addressing issues arising from the eligible disaster event. Advice may be obtained from a suitably qualified farm business consultant or a member of a professional accounting body. Advice may relate to business or financial matters, hydrological or soil conservation issues, feed analysis or other stock health issues. This grant is not available to meet the costs of normal business expenses or for employing professional advice for other purposes.

Eligibility

To be deemed eligible for any of the support measures offered by the DRFA-WA, primary producers must comply with DRFWA-WA eligibility criteria which can be viewed [here](#).