



Frequently asked questions

National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Please also refer to the [Information for applicants](#) document for further information.

What are the key dates?

The rebate scheme is open for applicants who have undertaken eligible works from 1 July 2018 (livestock businesses) and 1 July 2019 (horticulture businesses, permanent plantings) and will remain open until 30 April 2021 or until all the available funding is exhausted.

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|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10 May 2019 | scheme opened in WA |
| 31 March 2021 | final date for application submission |
| 30 April 2021 | scheme closes in WA |

When can I apply for rebate, and will there be funding rounds?

The scheme will close on 30 April 2021, or when funding allocation is exhausted, whichever occurs first. For this reason, costs incurred after the final application for rebate submission date (31 March 2021) will be ineligible for rebate.

Applications are processed in the order received, and may be submitted by farmers as soon as purchase and installation of eligible activities is achieved.

For each livestock or horticulture farm or pastoral business, there is no limit to the number of rebate applications or rebate payments for eligible activities. The total rebate allowable is \$25 000 per livestock or horticulture farm or pastoral lease.

| Scheme year reference | Purchased and installed eligible infrastructure and activities | Application should be submitted by | Applies to |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 | 10 May 2019 to 30 June 2019 | Primary (livestock) producers only |
| 2 | 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 | 31 March 2020 | Primary (livestock) producers and horticulture farmers (permanent plantings) |
| 3 | 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 | 31 March 2021 | Primary (livestock) producers and horticulture farmers (permanent plantings) |

The guideline dates to apply for rebates during scheme years 2 and 3 reflect the scheme's annual funding cycle as set by the Commonwealth, and may span different financial years.

Applications for rebates on costs incurred in April to June 2020 may be submitted in scheme year 3, across the financial year.

Farmers are requested to apply for rebates by 31 March 2020 (year 2) and 31 March 2021 (year 3) to allow as many rebate payments as possible by 30 April of each year.

Who is eligible?

The National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is open to all commercial livestock farmers, horticulture (permanent plantings) farmers and pastoralists in rural Western Australia, including properties connected to the reticulated scheme network.

Livestock farmers and pastoralists are eligible for rebates for all eligible infrastructure and activities under the scheme from 1 July 2018.

Commercial horticulture farmers (permanent plantings) are eligible for rebates for the drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores and desilting of horticulture dams by a contractor from 1 July 2019.

How does a farmer apply for a rebate under the scheme?

Information for applicants is available from the department's [website \(www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS\)](http://www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS).

Firstly, you need to confirm eligibility for the rebate scheme. If eligible, you can then purchase and undertake works. Next, you apply for a rebate toward the costs of eligible activities online via the department's Smarty Grants platform or via email using the PDF *Application for rebate form*. Supporting invoices and photographs must be lodged with application. All rebates are paid by Electronic Funds Transfer to the nominated bank account.

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible to apply for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, you must demonstrate:

- You are property owner, share farmer or lease holder in the livestock or horticulture industry.
- You are a commercial livestock or horticulture farmer or pastoralist as defined by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.
- The commercial livestock or horticulture business or pastoral lease operates under one of the approved industries:
 - livestock (includes sheep, beef, dairy, general livestock or any combination of these)
 - horticulture (includes orchards, vineyards, general permanent plantings, or any combination of these).
- You purchased and installed water infrastructure on farm for an animal welfare or permanent planting water need and to improve resilience against livestock water deficiency or permanent planting water deficiency.
- The property where the new on-farm water infrastructure is purchased and installed is in rural Western Australia.
- The purchase and installation of new on-farm livestock water infrastructure occurred:
 - after 30 June 2018 for livestock farmers (for all eligible activities)
 - after 30 June 2019 for horticulture farmers (for developed production bores and desilting of dams only)
- Your application for rebate is only for the purchase and installation of eligible water infrastructure and activities.

Please refer to the *Information for applicants* document for further information.

What is the maximum rebate that a farmer can receive under the scheme?

The maximum rebate is up to \$25 000 per livestock or horticulture (permanent plantings) farm business or pastoral lease.

Can I make additional application(s) for a rebate if I have already received a rebate(s) for less than \$25 000 total?

Yes, for each livestock or horticulture (permanent plantings) farm business or pastoral lease, there is no limit to the number of rebate applications or rebate payments allowable for eligible activities, but the total rebate allowable is \$25 000 per business.

Eligible activities for horticultural businesses (permanent plantings) are limited to drilling of horticulture groundwater bores and desilting of dams by contractors.

What financial contribution is required from the applicant?

Farmers and/or pastoralists are required to contribute a minimum of 75 per cent of the cost of eligible activities to apply for a rebate on costs associated with eligible activities.

What is the maximum time available for the completion of projects?

Applications for a rebate will be received and assessed after works have been completed. Rebates should be claimed within the same financial year as works are undertaken. Completed applications for rebate are assessed against the eligibility criteria in the order received.

What type of infrastructure and activities will be funded through the scheme?

Eligible infrastructure and activities, purchased and installed after 30 June 2019, for horticultural (permanent plantings) businesses include:

- drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores
- desilting of dams by contractors.

Eligible infrastructure and activities, purchased and installed after 30 June 2018, for primary producer (livestock) businesses include:

- pipes and other materials, fittings or equipment necessary to install stock water distribution infrastructure, *excluding* purchase of machinery
- water storage devices (tanks and troughs) associated with stock watering
- water pumps and associated distribution systems
- de-silting works of existing dams by contractor using contractor's own equipment
- drilling of new stock bores and bore pump tests to confirm yield and water quality suitable for stock
- power sources to distribute water to livestock watering points (including generators, windmills and solar)
- freight costs to purchase and install equipment
- professional installation costs to establish the water infrastructure.

Note: Rebates will not be paid without evidence the eligible goods and services have been paid in full. Evidence may include itemised tax receipts and invoices, bank transaction records or online payment statements.

If the eligible item or activity is not clearly noted on invoices, the applicant must provide a description of items including, for example, size of tank (litres or kilolitres), diameter and length of pipe, depth of bore and results of bore pump test from the bore contractor.

Is there a maximum claim limit on each eligible item or activity?

There is no limit on the number of items, and there is no per-item limit.

The rebate available is 25 per cent of the cost of purchase, delivery and, if applicable, the labour costs to engage a person to install water infrastructure. The maximum rebate payment is \$25 000 for all eligible items.

Do I need approval to drill a bore?

Not always, but you need to check with your local Department of Water and Environmental Regulation office to determine whether you need a bore licence.

For more information, log onto www.dwer.wa.gov.au/water, or call your nearest office.

Bore pump test results to confirm yield and water quality suitable for stock or permanent plantings are required to be submitted with invoices to be eligible for rebates under NOFEWIRS.

What approval do I need to make a rebate claim for desalination system/reverse osmosis?

The groundwater desalination process for farm water supply in Western Australia involves the disposal of saline effluent (brine), which is regulated and requires notification to authorities. Please contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on 1800 780 300 to discuss the notice of intent to drain or pump water (NOID) process for desalination units.

An approval letter from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation is required for desalination units to be eligible for rebates under NOFEWIRS.

The information for the NOID process is on the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development's [website: www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)

What items are not eligible for rebates?

- Construction or upgrade of an existing dam or catchment.
- Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour costs.
- Water infrastructure that is not intended for livestock.
- Items purchased prior to 1 July 2018 (livestock farmers) or 1 July 2019 (horticulture famers).
- Fencing of dams or mains power to water pump equipment.
- Water infrastructure works or costs already funded under other federal program(s).

I bought my own excavator to de-silt my dams. Can I claim this expense?

No, this rebate explicitly excludes the purchase of machinery.

What dates can I start claiming the rebate? Can I claim work I did in the past?

Commercial livestock businesses and pastoralists can claim invoices for goods or services that are dated on or after 1 July 2018.

Commercial horticulture businesses can claim invoices for eligible goods and services that are dated on or after 1 July 2019.

These dates are determined by the Australian Government and are not open to negotiation at a state level.

Applications are processed in the order received, and may be submitted by farmers as soon as purchase and installation of eligible activities is achieved.

Schedule for rebate application submission

| Scheme year reference | Purchased and installed eligible infrastructure and activities | Application should be submitted by | Applies to |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 | 10 May 2019 to 30 June 2019 | Primary (livestock) producers only |
| 2 | 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 | 31 March 2020 | Primary (livestock) producers and horticulture farmers (permanent plantings) |
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Can I claim equipment purchased before 1 July 2018 if the work did not start until after 1 July 2018?

No, the work undertaken must link to expenses incurred and this must be on or after 1 July 2018 for livestock farmers or on or after 1 July 2019 for horticulture farmers (permanent plantings).

How are rebates calculated?

Rebates are set at 25 per cent of the costs of the purchase and installation of eligible water infrastructure for delivery of water to livestock, to a maximum of \$25 000 per farm business or pastoral lease or horticulture business (permanent plantings).

On-farm water supply improvements for which a rebate is claimed must be installed as specified and paid for in full. Invoices or itemised receipts submitted to claim a rebate must be original or certified original documents and contain the following information:

- supplier's name
- supplier's ABN and contact details
- purchase date
- purchaser's name and address

- item details (make/model/size/quantity/capacity/description/etc.)
- purchase, freight and installation costs showing the amount due as paid in full (for invoices which do not include this information, a copy of the payment receipt must be attached to the claimed invoice).

How are rebates paid?

All rebates will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer direct to the successful applicant's nominated bank account.

Completed applications will be placed in order of receipt in the queue for assessment against all eligibility criteria.

Note: Past financial assistance under a departmental or any other program is not an indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this scheme.

What about GST?

All rebates paid by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation are subject to GST.

An applicant not registered for GST and unable to provide a valid, active ABN will not be eligible to claim rebates.

Are tax invoices required for rebate payment?

In certain circumstances, the agency making the payment (the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation) can raise a tax invoice on behalf of an applicant (supplier). This is known as a recipient created tax invoice. The department will issue these invoices on behalf of the applicant at the time of each rebate payment.

The department will provide the applicant with a copy of the recipient created tax invoice showing the amount of GST payable to the Australian Taxation Office. The applicant, not the department, is responsible for remitting the amount of GST shown on the recipient created tax invoice to the Australian Tax Office via their Business Activity Statement.

Note: The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation does not provide taxation or legal advice. You should not rely on any GST information contained in this booklet. If you have not already done so, we recommend that you seek expert advice on tax invoice requirements, the GST registration process and the general application of the GST to your business

How do I know if my application is successful?

Once your application has been received you will receive an email advising you that your submission has been received, and you will be contacted if further information is required.

Applications are assessed against eligibility criteria in the order in which they are received.

Applicants will be notified of assessment decision by email, and successful application rebates will be paid by Electronic Fund Transfer to the account nominated in the application.

Applicants should note that past financial assistance under department programs or any other program is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this scheme.

Further information and enquiries

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Australian Government
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