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Information for applicants
National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Overview

The National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme (NOFEWIRS) is a three-year, $5.6 million Australian Government-funded initiative. The scheme is administered in Western Australia by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

The scheme will provide rebates to eligible commercial farmers of livestock and horticulture (permanent plantings) and pastoralists in rural Western Australia (including share farmers and graziers with properties or leases in the grazing industry). The rebates will cover costs associated with the purchase and installation of on-farm water infrastructure for animal welfare and permanent planting water needs and to improve resilience against stock water and permanent planting water deficiency.

The scheme is available to commercial livestock and horticulture (permanent plantings) farmers and pastoralists for improving water infrastructure on properties throughout rural regions in Western Australia identified by the State Government as vulnerable to periods of dry conditions and on-farm water deficiencies.

Commercial livestock farmers and pastoralists are eligible for rebates for the purchase and installation of on-farm livestock water infrastructure 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.

The scheme will close on 30 April 2021 or when the funding allocation is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

Objectives and how the scheme works

If you are a commercial livestock farmer or pastoralist with a business experiencing or vulnerable to stock water deficiency, you may apply for a rebate under the scheme. Rebates are available toward costs associated with on-farm water infrastructure which addresses livestock welfare needs and improves resilience against water deficiency.

The rebate is 25 per cent of the cost of purchase, delivery and, if applicable, the labour costs to engage a person to install water infrastructure for animal welfare needs. The maximum that can be claimed per farm or pastoral business is $25 000.
If you are a horticultural farmer (permanent plantings) with a business experiencing or vulnerable to water deficiencies for permanent plantings, rebates are available towards costs for drilling new horticulture groundwater bores and dam desilting by a contractor on the business property with permanent plantings.

The rebate is 25 per cent of the cost of developing a production bore and/or dam desilting to a maximum rebate of $25 000.

How to apply

Step 1: Confirm eligibility

- check your eligibility (tables 1, 2 and 3)
- check what you can claim for costs of water infrastructure or activities (Table 4)
- if you need further information, see www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

Step 2: Purchase and install water infrastructure and gather supporting documents

- purchase and install your on-farm emergency water infrastructure
- take photos and gather evidence that the works have been paid for (such as itemised tax invoices, itemised tax receipts, bank transaction records, online payment statements)
- gather supporting documents about your farm or pastoral or horticultural business and property location.

Step 3: Apply for rebate

Applications must be made using the resources found at www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS and be lodged with required supporting documentation.

- Apply online via our website (www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS), which will allow you to upload scanned supporting documents
  The department’s online application platform Smarty Grants will require you to register using your email and a password (remember this password, as you may need to update or correct your application at some stage).
- Apply by email using the Application for rebate form, and lodge with scanned supporting documents.
  The form is available by email request to ruralwater@dwer.wa.gov.au or by download from www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS
Guideline schedule for rebate application submission

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme year reference</th>
<th>Purchased and installed eligible infrastructure and activities</th>
<th>Application should be submitted by</th>
<th>Applies to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019</td>
<td>10 May 2019 to 30 June 2019</td>
<td>Primary (livestock) producers only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020</td>
<td>31 March 2020</td>
<td>Primary (livestock) producers and horticulture farmers (permanent plantings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021</td>
<td>31 March 2021</td>
<td>Primary (livestock) producers and horticulture farmers (permanent plantings)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Assessment

Completed applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all information is provided. Applicants and businesses or individuals included in applications may be contacted if further verification or information is required to assist in assessing applications.

Applications submitted may be subject to audit by the department and its agents and partners to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.
Applicants should note that past financial assistance under a departmental or any other program is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this scheme.

**Eligibility criteria**

**Table 1: Eligibility criteria**

To be eligible to apply for the scheme you must demonstrate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You are property owner, share farmer or lease holder in the livestock or horticulture (permanent plantings) industry (see Table 2: Definitions).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are a commercial farmer or pastoralist as defined by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (see Table 2: Definitions).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your commercial livestock or horticulture (permanent plantings) farm or pastoral lease operates under one of the approved industries (see Table 3: Approved industries).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You purchased and installed on-farm water infrastructure for an animal welfare or permanent planting water need and to improve resilience against livestock or permanent planting water deficiency (see Table 4: Eligible activities).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The property where the new on-farm water infrastructure is purchased and installed is in rural Western Australia.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary (livestock) producers: purchase and installation of new on-farm livestock water infrastructure occurred after 30 June 2018.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture (permanent plantings) farmers: drilling of new horticulture groundwater bores and/or dam desilting by a contractor occurred after 30 June 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your rebate application is only for the purchase and installation of eligible water infrastructure and activities (see Table 4: Eligible activities).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Definitions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Applicant</strong></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A commercial livestock or horticulture (permanent plantings) farmer or pastoralist who submits a rebate application form and original paid invoices and photographs to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation under the National On-Farm Emergency Infrastructure Water Rebate Scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A person employed as a farm manager is not deemed to be a commercial farmer or eligible to be an applicant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commercial farmer

A person or a company that:

- genuinely operates the farm as an occupation, business or income-earning activity
- operates with a current ABN and is registered for GST

Farm

A parcel or parcels of land operated for agricultural (livestock) or horticulture (permanent plantings) purposes by a commercial farmer.

A search of land titles may be undertaken to confirm land ownership. A copy of the applicable lease document may be requested by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Company and business name searches may also be required.

Businesses such as strata companies, managing agents, tourism companies, superannuation funds, land development companies, government agencies, building and development companies, unincorporated associations and unincorporated joint ventures (also known as consortiums) are ineligible to apply for the scheme.

Pastoralist

Commercial primary producers whose property is located in the pastoral regions of Western Australia.

A ‘commercial pastoralist’:

- holds a current pastoral lease over the property
- operates with a current ABN and is registered for GST.

Table 3: Approved industries activities

Listed below are approved commercial livestock and horticulture (permanent plantings) industries under the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock</th>
<th>Horticulture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sheep</td>
<td>orchards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beef</td>
<td>vineyards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dairy</td>
<td>general permanent plantings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>general livestock</td>
<td>any combination of the above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Eligible infrastructure and activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock</th>
<th>Horticulture</th>
<th>Description of eligible activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>Pipes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>Water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>Water pumps and associated water distribution systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Livestock | Horticulture | Description of eligible activity
--- | --- | ---
✔ | ✔ | De-silting works of existing dams by a contractor.

✔ | ✔ | Drilling of new stock water bores or horticulture groundwater bores and bore pump tests to confirm yield and water quality suitable for stock or horticulture permanent plantings.
Pump test results to be submitted with invoices.

**Note:** To receive a rebate for a new bore, it is a requirement to check licensing requirements with your regional Department of Water and Environmental Regulation office before commencing any drilling for groundwater.


✔ | ✗ | Power sources to distribute water to livestock watering points (including generators, windmills and solar).

✔ | ✗ | Other materials, equipment or fittings necessary to install water distribution infrastructure **excluding** purchases of machinery.

✔ | ✗ | Any freight costs to purchase and install the equipment.

✔ | ✗ | The professional installation costs to install the water infrastructure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ineligible infrastructure and activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✗</td>
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<td>✗</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Links to other schemes

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Farm Water Supply Planning Scheme (FWSPS) supports strategic planning to improve farm water supplies.

The FWSPS offers rebates toward the costs of a department-approved farm auditor visiting the applicant’s farm to complete a detailed audit of their water supplies and needs, and to advise on farm water supply improvements.

The FWSPS is available to commercial farmers in the dry land wheatbelt region of Western Australia.

For more information or to participate in this scheme, contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation or see: www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

Frequently asked questions

See our frequently asked questions online at: www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

Further information and enquiries

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Phone: 1800 780 300