

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Transport of animals purchased for restocking freight subsidy.

The *Transport of animals purchased for restocking freight subsidy* is jointly funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for Queensland primary producers. The purpose of the scheme is to provide freight assistance when replacing animals lost during a disaster event.

Eligibility

To apply for this subsidy, you must meet the following conditions:

- You are a primary producer. For the purposes of this scheme, a primary producer is a person or a partner in a partnership, company or trust who spends more than 50 per cent of their labour on and derives more than 50 per cent of their gross income from a primary production enterprise.
- You are a property owner, share-farmer or lessee in the grazing industry (beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, goats, deer or horses that are not normally hand-fed).
- Your property was within a DRFA disaster activated area or had a current Individually Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration on the date the transport occurred.
- The transport of the animals is to replace livestock lost as a direct result of the natural disaster event.
- The animals were transported within 12 months from the date of the natural disaster activation.
- The animals are replacing livestock that were previously permanently residing on the property.
- The animals were transported from the closest source that is practically available. A distance restriction of 1,000 km exists and subsidies will be reduced if this distance restriction is exceeded.¹
- The animals were transported by hired carrier, ship or rail.
- Your application is received in Brisbane within **six months** of the date the livestock were transported.
- The introduction of livestock does not increase stock numbers on the property to beyond normal carrying capacity.

The subsidy applies to the transport of:

- The replacement of livestock lost as a direct result of the disaster event.
- Beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, goats and deer. Other livestock industries may be eligible for subsidy depending on the nature and extent of the natural disaster.

Ineligibility

The subsidy does not apply to:

- any labour costs involved in transporting, locating or mustering the animals.
- any labour costs involved in farm clean up and repairs.
- any animals transported via private vehicles or

¹ The 1000 km distance restriction may not apply if it has been extended following a recommendation from a DAF Climate Risk Coordinator. In such cases, the Climate Risk Coordinator will recommend a maximum distance on a case-by-case basis.

- invoices submitted from entities related to the applicant, such as a company owned by the applicant (for example, livestock purchased by the applicant from a company in which they have part ownership).

Restocking credits

Restocking credits are established for your property for up to 100 per cent of the total number of livestock lost as a direct result of the natural disaster event. Please complete the last page of the application form to establish the credits for your property.

Subsidy rates

Subsidy rates are provided for information purposes only; you do not have to make your own calculations. Subsidies will be calculated by DAF and paid out at the following rates:

<i>Hired Carrier</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of the transport cost applies to a maximum charge in line with current average rates as approved by the Climate Risk Coordinator</i>
<i>Rail</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of the transport cost</i>
<i>Ship</i>	<i>50% of the loaded portion of shipping costs on consignments approved by DAF</i>

How to apply

Application forms are available online at www.daf.qld.gov.au or can be posted or emailed to you if you contact the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23. Keep a copy of your tax invoices for your records and submit completed application forms and tax invoices to the DAF Brisbane office at the below address. Please post applications to:

*Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Freight Subsidies
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Level 6
GPO Box 46
Brisbane Qld 4001*

Or email: naturaldisasters@daf.qld.gov.au

Supporting documents

DAF is unable to process freight subsidy applications without copies of all tax invoices and relevant waybills that relate to the purchase and transport of the livestock. Please include copies of all tax invoices with your application including tax invoices showing the purchase of the animals and tax invoices showing the transport and any applicable waybills. Remember to keep a copy of the application for yourself, as tax invoices will not be returned to you unless requested.

Minimum and maximum payments

The minimum payment for each application is \$25. No payment will be made for any claims under this amount.

The maximum level of financial assistance available is \$5,000 per property, per disaster event on combined freight subsidies. **For the purposes of this scheme, all properties or land parcels included under a single Property Identification Code (PIC) are considered to be one property.**

This scheme does not allow the splitting of partnerships, properties or land parcels to access more than the prescribed maximum amount.

Where you have received a payment that you are not eligible to receive, DAF reserves the right to pursue reimbursement, which may also include reclaiming funds from any future eligible DRFA freight subsidy applications that you submit.

Processing times

DAF aims to process all claims within 21 working days. Incomplete claims or claims that do not clearly meet the eligibility requirements may take longer. To ensure your claim is processed as quickly as possible, please make sure you have provided all of the required information and that you meet the eligibility criteria.

Payment method

DAF's preferred method of payment is direct electronic transfer into your bank account; however, you may request payment by cheque. You can indicate on your form which method you would prefer.

Assessment

DAF will consider all applications for the transport of livestock received within **six months** of the date of transport.

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. DAF reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application. Failure to provide such information may result in DAF refusing your application. DAF also reserves the right to refuse an application, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.

Applications submitted may be subject to audit by DAF or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

Fraudulent applications

By signing the application form, you are declaring that you have read the guidelines and the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate. Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply. If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the subsidy.

Appeal and review process

If you are declined assistance because your claim was received by DAF outside of the eligible time limit, you can request a re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and outlining the reasons why your application was late. Payment of a declined claim may be approved at the Minister's discretion, if the Minister considers that there are extenuating circumstances that contributed to the late submission.

If you are declined assistance because DAF officers believe you do not meet the eligibility criteria (for example, DAF officers believe you do not qualify as a 'primary producer' for the purpose of this scheme), you may request re-consideration by writing to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and outline the reasons why you believe you are eligible and including any additional supporting evidence. Payment of a declined claim may be approved at the Minister's discretion, if the Minister considers that the evidence provided by you demonstrates that you meet the eligibility criteria.

Producer responsibilities

While this scheme is to help you to manage the welfare of your animals, it does not discharge you from your legal responsibilities under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. You should continue to manage the welfare of your animals, either by continuing to destock, by supplementary feeding or by carrying water, until such time as conditions on your property improve.

Guidelines

These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing. DAF reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website frequently. The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by DAF.

While DAF has taken all care in preparing these guidelines, DAF will not be liable in any way for any errors, omissions or variation to information in these guidelines or for not advising an applicant of any errors, omissions or variations to information in these guidelines.

DAF may cancel or suspend this scheme at any time without notice.