



National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme



Information for applicants



Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup Western Australia 6027
Locked Bag 10 Joondalup DC WA 6919

Phone: 08 6364 7000

Fax: 08 6364 7001

National Relay Service 13 36 77

dwer.wa.gov.au

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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, \$4.6 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 pastoralists in rural WA (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 needs and to improve resilience against stock water deficiency.

The National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme is available to commercial farmers and pastoralists for improving livestock water infrastructure on properties throughout rural Western Australia regions identified by the state government as vulnerable to periods of dry conditions and on-farm water deficiencies.

The purchase and installation of farm water infrastructure from 1 July 2018 is eligible for National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

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 rebate under National On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. Rebates are available toward costs associated with on-farm water infrastructure that 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.

How to apply

Step 1: Confirm eligibility

- check your eligibility (tables 1, 2 and 3)
- check what you can claim of costs for water infrastructure or activities (Table 4)

To confirm eligibility and for frequently asked questions, see www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

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

- 1 Purchase and install your on farm emergency water infrastructure
- 2 Take photos and gather evidence that the works have been paid (evidence may include itemised tax invoices, itemised tax receipts, bank transaction records, on-line payment statements)
- 3 Gather supporting documents about your farm or pastoral business and property location

Step 3: Apply for rebate

Applications must be made using the resources found at www.dwer.wa.gov.au and be lodged with supporting documentation stated in the application.

- **Apply online** via the Application for Rebate for National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure link (www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS), which will allow you to upload scanned supporting documents

Note: DWER'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 PDF *Application for rebate form*, and lodge with scanned supporting documents.

The PDF form is available by email request to ruralwater@dwer.wa.gov.au or download from www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

Guideline schedule for rebate application submission

Applications must be submitted in the same financial year as the works are undertaken.

Scheme year reference	Purchased and installed eligible water infrastructure and works	Application must be submitted within these dates
2018–19	1 July 2018 through 30 June 2019	10 May 2019 through 30 June 2019
2019–20	1 July 2019 through 30 April 2020	1 July 2019 through 30 April 2020
2020–21	1 July 2020 through 30 April 2021	1 July 2020 through 30 April 2021

For each farm or pastoral business and all eligible activities, there is no limit to the number of rebate applications or rebate payments, but these must be for separate works, and the total rebate allowable is \$25 000 per farm or pastoral business.

If farmers are unable to complete works and submit application for rebate within the guidelines above, extensions may be determined on a case by case basis.

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

Assessment

Complete 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 of Water and Environmental Regulation and its agents and partners to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

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.

Eligibility criteria

Table 1: 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 industry (see Table 2: Definitions).
You are a commercial farmer or pastoralist as defined by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (see Table 2: Definitions).
Your commercial farm or pastoral business or pastoral lease operates under one of the approved industries (see Table 3: Approved industries).
You purchased and installed on-farm water infrastructure on farm for an animal welfare need and to improve resilience against livestock water deficiency (see Table 4: Eligible activities).
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.
Your rebate application is only for the purchase and installation of eligible water infrastructure and activities (see Table 4: Eligible activities).

Frequently asked questions available online: www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

Table 2: Definitions

Applicant	<p>A commercial farmer or pastoralist who submits a rebate application form and original paid invoices to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation under the National On-Farm Emergency Infrastructure Water Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>A person employed as a farm manager is not deemed to be a commercial farmer or eligible to be an applicant.</p>
Commercial farmer	<p>A person or a company who or which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • genuinely operates the farm as an occupation, business or income-earning activity • operates with a current ABN and is registered for GST • has gross annual income of at least \$75 000 • has at least one member of the farm or pastoral business or managers that devote at least 75% of their labour to the farm business and receive at least 50% of their income from the farm business

Farm	<p>A parcel or parcels of land operated for agricultural purposes by a commercial farmer.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Pastoralist	<p>Commercial primary producers whose property is located in the pastoral regions of Western Australia.</p> <p>A 'commercial pastoralist':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • holds a pastoral lease over the property • operates with a current ABN and is registered for GST • has gross annual income of at least \$75 000 • has at least one member of the farm business or managers that devote at least 75% of their labour to the farm business and receive at least 50% of their income from the farm business

Table 3: Approved industries activities

Listed below are approved commercial livestock industries under the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sheep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beef
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dairy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general livestock (free range)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any combination of the above

Table 4: Eligible activities

Listed below are eligible activities under the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

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.

✓	Pipes.
✓	Water storage devices such as tanks and troughs associated with stock watering.
✓	Water pumps and associated water distribution systems.
✓	De-silting works of existing dams by a contractor.
✓	<p>Drilling of new stock water bores and bore pump tests to confirm yield and water quality suitable for stock.</p> <p>Pump test results to be submitted with invoices.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>More information: www.dwer.wa.gov.au/water or 1800 508 885</p>
✓	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 5: Ineligible activities

Listed below are ineligible activities under the National On-Farm Emergency Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

✗	Construction or upgrade of dams and/or catchments.
✗	Wages for your employees or your self-assessed labour costs.
✗	Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed where there is not an emergency animal welfare need or potential for this need.
✗	Water infrastructure that has been purchased and installed for uses other than to supply water for livestock.
✗	Items purchased prior to 1 July 2018.

	Fencing of dams, engineered catchments and soaks, or mains power supply to water pumping equipment.
	Water infrastructure works or costs already funded under other federal program(s).

Links to other schemes

The Western Australian 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

Rural Water Planning

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

7 Ellam Street

VICTORIA PARK WA 6100

Web: www.dwer.wa.gov.au/NOFEWIRS

Email: ruralwater@dwer.wa.gov.au

Phone: 1800 780 300