

SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF THE DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE SCHEME

ROBERT CRICHTON



We wish to make a submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Review of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme and in particular the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR)

Currently the EWIR Scheme is available to landholders whose eligibility is governed by the DRAS eligibility conditions. These eligibility criteria exclude agistment operations.

1. We are property owners within a drought declared area, the Shire being drought declared since April 2013.
2. We own a property running a business where breeders are run on a long term basis. All the livestock on the property are on agistment and some breeders have been here for over five years.
3. Animal welfare needs - **water supply** – have been the same problem to us as it has been on properties qualifying for EWIR. In 2014 8 out of 12 dams were completely dry leaving large areas of the property beyond a reasonable distance for animals to **access water**.
4. As the operators of a long term agistment business we provide **feed and water** for animals permanently domiciled on the property as would be the case if the property was owned or leased.
5. Under an agistment arrangement and being the owner of a drought declared property, we have total control of stocking rates and movements thereby ensuring sustainable resource management.
6. Under an agistment arrangement we as the property owners are responsible for providing sufficient feed and quality water to agisted animals. We are also responsible for maintaining the water infrastructure in an adequate condition so as to provide water for those animals.
7. None of these points are taken into consideration when eligibility of an **agistment breeder** operation is being assessed.

As a property owner who has operated a total agistment **breeder operation** for 15 years we believe we have been excluded from the EWIR Scheme on the grounds that we do not meet the full intent of the EWIR scheme which is to deal with **animal welfare issues**.

We therefore request that the parliamentary Review of DRAS and in particular EWIR provide property owners who operate a total **agistment breeder** operation the same access to EWIR as all other property owners.

ROBERT CRICHTON

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Crichton". The signature is written over a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the name and the date.

DATED 27 August 2015

**SCENARIOS FOR ELEGIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE  
REBATE**

	<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>PROPERTY</b>
	<b><u>OWNED</u></b>	<b><u>LEASED</u></b>	<b><u>AGISTED</u></b>
Property Drought			
Declared	YES	YES	YES
Property owner			
Of animals	YES	NO	NO
Water Emergency			
Animal Welfare	YES	YES	YES
Eligible for EWIR	YES	YES	NO

*R. J. Jackson 27/08/2015*