

Question on Notice

No. 475

Asked on 24 May 2022

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Grants administered through QRIDA for disaster affected primary producers, given the number of applications being rejected on the basis of not meeting the eligible item criteria— Will the Minister provide a more detailed set of guidelines to assist applicants better understand the items they are eligible to claim?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) administers a wide range of government grants, rebates, and loans on behalf of several other state and Federal departments and agencies, including Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants (EDARG) which form part of the Disaster Recover Funding Arrangements (DRFA) initiatives.

As at 8 June 2022, there have been two 2022 events in which QRIDA is providing EDARG assistance to primary producers, including the:

- South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, 22 February – 5 April 2022
- Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, 2 – 10 January 2022.

Guidelines for eligibility under the DRFA are set by the Federal Government. The guidelines are endorsed by the States and Territories who administer the DRFA for activated disaster events.

To be eligible for the EDARG for both events the applicant must:

1. Be a *primary producer*
2. Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the eligible disaster
3. Have a *primary production enterprise* that is located in the *defined area* for the *eligible disaster* that has suffered direct damage as a result of the *eligible disaster*
4. Have been engaged in carrying on the *primary production enterprise* when affected by the *eligible disaster*
5. Be primarily responsible for meeting the costs claimed in the application
6. Provide satisfactory evidence of loss of damage and cover costs relating to replacing dead livestock; repairing or restoring fields; or salvaging crops, grain or feed; and
7. Intend to re-establish the primary production enterprise in the *defined disaster area* for the *eligible disaster*.

For every application, each individual circumstance is considered by QRIDA when addressing how the funding can be used. Detailed guidelines are available on the QRIDA website for each event outlining where and for what the grants can be used. However, the advice is for all applicants to contact their local QRIDA representative to get an assessment of their individual circumstances.

Further, the primary producer definition can be found on the guideline for each event, and it should be noted the DRFA definition differs from the Australian Taxation Office definition.

The Federal Government has announced a review of DRFA and this provides an opportunity to carefully consider key eligibility issues such as the primary producer definition.

In addition to the current DRFA initiatives, Queensland has developed a new \$3 million grant scheme approved as part of the recently announced \$720.61 million DRFA flood recovery package.

This scheme is jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments to provide additional support to small landholders who do not meet eligibility as primary producers to assist with their recovery.

Administrative arrangements are currently being progressed for consideration to allow QRIDA to deliver the scheme in Queensland.

Guidelines and application forms will be available on the QRIDA website once the regulation has been passed in coming weeks.