

Transport Subsidy Emergency Drought Relief

1. Objectives

To provide a subsidy on the transport of fodder and/or water to a property, stock to/from agistment and stock to sale or slaughter.

2. Assistance available

A transport subsidy of up to 50% of the total freight cost is available to eligible primary producers to a maximum of \$5 per kilometre (GST exclusive) to a maximum eligible distance of 1,500 kilometres.

\$20,000 is available per eligible farm business per year which equates up to \$30,000 over 18 months from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Payments can be made on receipt of eligible tax invoices which demonstrate transport occurring between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2019.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance you must declare that:

- They are the owner and operator of a farm business in NSW, and
- They as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company and trades agricultural products, and
- The business is registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a primary producer, and have an Australian Business Number (ABN), and
- The owners and operators of the business earn more than 50% of their gross income from the primary production enterprise under normal seasonal circumstances. Applications from new entrants will be considered on a case by case basis; or
- The owners and operators of the business have commenced their farming operation between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2018 and 50% of their gross income will be derived from the farm business within three years of the date of the application.
- The business is being negatively impacted by drought conditions, and
- The owners and operators of the business do not have gross off-farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000 (excluding funds in a registered superannuation fund).

4. Eligible Costs

- Transporting of stock to agistment.
- Returning stock from agistment.
- Transport of stock to sale or slaughter.
- Transport of fodder for stock to properties.
- Transport of stock drinking water.

5. General guidelines

- Expenses incurred over an 18 month period from the 01 January 2018 will be eligible under this subsidy.
- Subsidy will be paid for transport at a rate of 50% of the total amount paid to the carrier or costs for an owner carrier. If the transport rates are considered excessive the subsidy paid is 50% of the approved ruling rate schedule.
- Subsidy applies to the loaded portion of the journey only.
- Invoices submitted with the application have not been used to secure funding under any other Government Scheme.
- Subsidy applies on the cartage of fodder/water from the closest practical available source.
- The amount to be paid is the GST exclusive amount.
- Subsidy is not to be used for the transport of stock that are not fit to travel. Stock owners must always comply with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.
- There are also restrictions on the amount that owner carriers can claim per kilometre per transportation as per the following ruling rate schedule:

Gross vehicle mass (T) and/ or Gross combined vehicle mass (T)	Amount per kilometre
< 2.5	\$1.00
< 4.5	\$1.40
< 6.5	\$1.80
< 8.5	\$2.00
< 10.5	\$2.20
< 12.5	\$2.35
< 14.5	\$2.55
< 15.5	\$2.65

Transport Subsidy Emergency Drought Relief

< 22.5	\$3.00
< 27.5	\$3.40
< 42.5	\$4.00
> 42.5	\$5.00

Owner carriers will be assessed on a case by case basis. Distance rates for owner carriers are indicative rates based on commercial transport costs, but are calculated not to include the cost of the applicant's time, labour or margin for profit.

6. Stock to and from agistment

- Subsidy is available for the loaded forward and return journeys.
- Subsidy is also available for transport of stock from one area of agistment to another.
- If the owner is forced to move stock off the agistment property additional claims will be considered on a case by case basis.
- The stockowner must have no prior arrangement/agreement or contract to sell or otherwise dispose of the stock to the owner of the agistment property.
- Stock consigned to a custom or commercial feedlot on maintenance rations may be eligible for transport subsidies to and from the feedlot.
- The minimum load must be equivalent to 70 dry sheep equivalents (DSE). Loads of less than 70 DSE will be assessed on a case by case basis (e.g. transporting bulls).
- Commercial feedlots are not eligible for the rebate.

7. Stock to sale or slaughter

- Subsidy is available for the transport of stock from the home or agisted to sale or slaughter.
- Commercial feedlots are not eligible for the rebate.
- You are claiming in relation to farmed animals appearing on the most recent Land & Stock Return.

8. Fodder

- Subsidy is payable on transport costs related to fodder movement. The movement must be to a landholder's property, a travelling stock reserve, leased or agisted property.

- Subsidy is payable for genuine smaller vehicle movements within a property, where the initial vehicle transporting the fodder to the property is too large to transport the fodder to the appropriate storage location on the property. In these situations the owner must sign a statutory declaration to this effect.
- Minimum load of fodder is 1 tonne. Loads of less than 1 tonne may be assessed on a case by case basis if eligible.
- Transport of fodder for stock consigned to a commercial feedlot on maintenance rations may be eligible for rebates.
- Commercial feedlots, where stock are purchased, fattened and sold; and backgrounding, where stock are fattened prior to moving into a feedlot, are ineligible.
- Commercial feed processors are not eligible for transport subsidies.

9. Stock and domestic drinking water

- Subsidy for the transport of water is available if the water is carted from the nearest practicable source.
- Transport of water within a holding is eligible for subsidy as long as the roundtrip distance is 15km or greater to a suitable storage facility that minimises evaporation.
- Transport subsidies will not be paid for the transport of water for irrigation.
- Minimum movement (all other stock): $\geq 1,000L$ per transportation.
- Water cartage to stock on a travelling stock reserve or agistment property is eligible for subsidy.
- The maximum distance for a single journey on which a subsidy will be paid for the transport of stock drinking water is 500km.

10. Assessment

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. RAA 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 RAA refusing your application. RAA 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 RAA or

Transport Subsidy Emergency Drought Relief

its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

11. To apply

Applications for assistance under the program must be made on RAA's application form and be accompanied by the documentation stated in the application form.

Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

Applicants should note that past financial assistance under this program or any other program is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this program.

Before applying for financial assistance under this program or making any decision, applicants should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine their eligibility for and the terms of the financial assistance.

Applications and claim forms can be submitted online, by email, post, fax or in person. Applications and claim forms that have been emailed can be tracked most efficiently.

Email: rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

Fax: (02) 6391 3098

In Person: 161 Kite St, Orange NSW 2800

12. Fraudulent claims

By signing the claim form, you are declaring that 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 funds.

13. Guidelines

These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing. RAA 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 RAA. While RAA has taken all care in preparing these guidelines, RAA 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. RAA may cancel or suspend this scheme at any time without notice.

Applications must be received by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority NO later than the 30th June 2019.

Applications received after this date will NOT be accepted.