Guidelines

Plague Locust Chemical Rebate 2026

Reimbursement for approved products to control plague locust infestations

August 2026

Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Plague Locust Chemical Rebate 2026 – reimbursement for products to control plague locust infestations. Guidelines for applicants.

Information current as of August 2026.

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1. Purpose

Australian Plague Locust activity has increased across parts of South Australia. Current conditions, including abundant green feed and good soil moisture across pasture and mixed farming landscapes, have led to the potential for locust band formation and further population increases during winter and spring 2026.

The Australian Plague Locust is a declared pest in South Australia and can cause severe damage to crops, pastures and the environment. Under the *Plant Health Act 2009,* landholders are required to undertake management of locusts on their property.

The management of high density of locust aggregations is critical to reducing damage locusts can cause to cropping, grazing and horticultural industries within the State. To support landholders to undertake management, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development through the Department for Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is offering a rebate scheme to assist with expenses associated with the control of plague locusts in defined areas through the Plague Locust Chemical Rebate 2026. Under this rebate, eligible primary producers and landholders will receive reimbursement for the use of approved products on their property.

The defined areas include all or part of Local Government Areas in the Riverland/Mallee, Mid-North and Eyre Peninsula, as defined in the Eligible Areas section of this document.

Applications must be submitted online for the Plague Locust Chemical Rebate 2026. Applications close 5.00pm (ACDT) on 14 February 2027.

2. Amount

The rebate is available to eligible landowners, sharefarmers and lessees to assist with expenses incurred for the purchase of Registered or Permitted products applied to control Australian Plague Locust bands and swarms between **1 September 2026 and 31 December 2026**.

Registered or Permitted products purchased from **1st July 2026** to **31 December 2026** may be eligible if they are applied from **1 September 2026**.

The rebate is paid for all product purchase expenses incurred up to **a maximum of $35 excl. GST per hectares sprayed**, payable once all spraying has been completed.

The rebate is only payable for direct costs incurred for the purchase of the quantity of product required for the area treated. This means applicants are not eligible to claim associated diesel, equipment, labour or other costs associated with the application. Applicants must claim the actual product cost per hectare (up to a maximum of $35/ha) and are not eligible to claim the maximum permitted amount if that is above the direct cost. For example, if an applicant sprays 100 hectares at a product cost of $15/ha for that product, the applicant will be eligible for a total rebate of $1,500. If 100ha is sprayed and the cost of the product used exceeds a cost of $35 per hectare (say $40/ha), the maximum rebate payable is $3,500 (not $4,000). Applications will be closely assessed to ensure the rebate claimed matches the direct product cost per hectare.

Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis upon presentation of eligible expenditure and payment evidence.

3. Who is eligible

The applicant must meet all the criteria below:

- be a landowner, sharefarmer or lessee of a primary production property in one of the Eligible Areas
- hold an Australian Business Number and be registered for GST as of 1 July 2026
- have not already received reimbursement for purchased product under this 2026 Rebate program in respect of the same property

Where an applicant engages a contractor to undertake the spraying, the applicant must have purchased the product in accordance with these guidelines to be eligible for a rebate. Documentation evidencing the product purchase must be in the name of the applicant.

Where a primary producer leases or share farms an affected property, they must reach agreement with the landowner as to who will lodge the application. The affected property will be eligible for one rebate application only, noting that the property may be sprayed multiple times if required (see Section 6. Approved products and application).

The applicant must demonstrate that they have incurred expenses in spraying locust hopper bands or adult swarms on their property located in the areas defined in the Eligible Areas section of this document.

4. Eligible areas

- **Riverland/Mallee region:**
  - The entire Local Government Areas of Mid Murray, Murray Bridge, Karoonda East Murray, Coorong, Tatiara, Southern Mallee, Loxton Waikerie, Berri Barmera and Renmark Paringa
  - Unincorporated Area Riverland
- **Mid-North region:**
  - The entire Local Government Areas of Port Augusta, Flinders Ranges, Mount Remarkable, Orroroo-Carrieton, Peterborough, Northern Areas and Goyder
- **Eyre Peninsula region:**
  - The entire Local Government Areas of Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Wudinna, Elliston, Kimba, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Tumby Bay, Cleve, Franklin Harbour and Whyalla
  - The Hundred of Ceduna
  - Unincorporated Area Whyalla

5. Ineligibility

The following costs are ineligible for reimbursement:

- Products not purchased by the applicant, *or*,
- Products purchased by a contractor for chemical control on the applicant's property, or
- Costs incurred outside of the approved dates, or
- Capital costs associated with the purchase of equipment or machinery for application of product, or
- Labour – including farmer/landholder and contractor time, or
- Any other costs associated with applying the products, or
- Any other items purchased together with the approved products, or
- Loss of income resulting from the impacts of a locust infestation.

6. Approved products and application

This rebate is intended for the use of approved products for the control of Australian Plague Locusts in both nymph (hopper) and adult life stages. It is strongly recommended that controls be applied at the hopper stage. At this early stage, locusts aggregate into dense bands and can be effectively targeted with chemical application. Multiple treatments across the same area may be required as nymph/hopper emergence may be staggered. Read the chemical label carefully for advice on possible repeat applications.

All products that are registered or under permit with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for the control of Australian Plague Locusts are approved for this rebate, if they are applied within label/permit recommendations. Consult your local supplier or agronomist for availability and the most suitable product for your situation and crop type.

The following conditions apply:

- The rebate is for total area sprayed on the applicant's property.
- If an area is sprayed twice, it may be counted twice for the purpose of the rebate. For example, if a 10-hectare area is sprayed twice, it will be treated as 20 total hectares for the purposes of calculating the rebate amount
- The amount of product purchased must be commensurate with the area sprayed to control locusts in accordance with the product manufacturer's label or permit instructions
- Any person applying approved products must adhere to label conditions, including application rates and withholding periods

Products no longer approved for locust control by the APVMA are not eligible for this rebate.

7. Funding limits

Only one rebate application per **property** may be lodged. Where a property has multiple sprays applied, all spray rounds must be included in the application.

Multiple applications may be submitted if an applicant sprays multiple properties, however it is preferred that they be combined into one application for the purposes of this rebate.

8. How to apply

Applicants must submit an online application and all required supporting documentation to PIRSA. Applications will be completed and submitted through the myPIRSA portal. A 'myPIRSA' account will be required to submit applications. For more information on the application process, visit **pir.sa.gov.au/locusts.**

Applications must be submitted by **5.00pm (ACDT) on 14 February 2027.** Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Note: Emailing documents to PIRSA will not be accepted as an application. An electronic application form available at the PIRSA website must be submitted via the website link above.

You will need the following information to complete your application:

- evidence of land ownership (e.g. Certificate of Title, Property Rates Notice), lease agreement or written approval from landowner
- property location (address) and Local Government Area or Unincorporated Area
- Australian Business Number, active and registered for GST from 1 July 2026
- invoices and payment evidence that approved product/s were purchased within the eligible period 1 July 2026 to 31 December 2026 and have been paid in full by the applicant
    - Valid evidence of payment includes bank statements, supplier statements, paid invoices that identifies the account holder
- Applicants must also supply spray records that match the rebate claim.

Upon submitting the online electronic application form, you will be provided with an application receipt number. This number should be used when contacting PIRSA with any questions or clarifications.

9. Rebate administration and payment process

Payment of the rebate will be made following an assessment of the application, including applicant eligibility, and receipt of evidence of expenditure incurred such as tax invoices and receipts. Calculations of the rebate will be based on GST exclusive cost of products and delivery of those products to the applicant's address.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement before receiving the rebate. An acquittal form will also be provided and must be submitted following the receipt of funding.

10. Fraudulent claims

By signing the application form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true, accurate and not misleading about a material fact.

Providing inaccurate, untrue, or misleading information may be an offence and 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 the applicant, including action to recover the rebate.