

South Australian River Murray Floods 2022

Primary Producer Irrigation Infrastructure

Grants guidelines

Released 11 December 2022



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**All enquiries regarding South Australian River Murray Floods 2022
Primary Producer Irrigation Infrastructure Grant**

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1 About the grant program

The program is funded by the Government of South Australia in relation to the River Murray major flood emergency declared on 15 November 2022.

The objective of this grant is to support South Australian River Murray primary producers who access River Murray water for primary production to meet costs associated with flood impacts to irrigation infrastructure and electricity supply as a result of the 2022 River Murray Floods.

Primary producers play an integral part in local economies and communities, and this assistance will go towards minimising disruption in the affected areas and assisting affected communities.

This grant program opens on 11 December 2022 for eligible expenditure on or after 15 November 2022. The grant will be available up to a date to be determined by the department, having regard to flow predictions, flood water levels and advice from South Australian Power Network. The acceptance of grant applications will close when funding is fully allocated or determined by the Department, whichever occurs first.

The assistance provided is available for eligible primary producer irrigator businesses located within the affected local government council areas listed below who have been required to relocate or re-establish irrigation pumps and/or the purchase of alternative power sources such as generators due to the 2022 River Murray floods:

- Alexandrina Council
- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Pastoral Unincorporated Area
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge

2 Available funding

Primary producers who have been directly impacted by River Murray Floods are eligible for funding of up to \$25,000 (GST Exclusive) for the costs of:

- relocating or re-establishing irrigation infrastructure and/or
- alternative power sources, i.e. generators,

Maximum funding: \$25,000 (GST exclusive).

To be eligible you must have evidence of:

- actual or potential power disconnection/interruption to primary producer business and/or
- flood inundation impacts on irrigation infrastructure.

3 How funding may be used

Grant funding is available to cover the associated costs for relocating and re-establishing irrigation infrastructure and the purchase of alternative power sources such as generators and associated activities for the immediate recovery of primary production irrigation enterprises. Eligible claims may cover:

- a) Costs related to relocation of pumps, meters, shedding and generators;
- b) Purchase of **replacement** irrigation pump and pump shed infrastructure where flood damage has occurred;
- c) Purchase of an alternative power source, i.e. generator;
- d) Generator hire;
- e) Stock water quality treatment;
- f) Engagement of contractors, including electricians, irrigation specialists in relating to criteria's a, b, c and e.

4 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria

4.1 To be eligible for grant funding, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be a primary producer (as defined in section 8 below); and
- b) Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the flood event; and
- c) Hold a Class 3 water access entitlement or be a member of an Irrigation Trust at the time of the flood event;

- d) Have a primary production irrigation enterprise (as defined in section 8 below) located in an affected local government council required to relocation or re-establishment of pumping infrastructure and/or has suffered loss of power;
- e) Have a copy of a notice received from the SAPN advising of potential or actual power disconnection/interruption due to flood at the business owner's address within the designated council. Note this could be in the form of a letter, text message, push notification alert, or email; and/or
- f) Evidence of flood impact to irrigation infrastructure;
- g) Have evidence of cost expenditure;
- h) Have been operating the primary production irrigation enterprise at the time, and affected by the flooding event through loss of power or inundation; and
- i) The costs of essential relocation or re-establishment of irrigation infrastructure and/or electricity supply relate to the flood event and the costs incurred are the applicant's responsibility, not a third party's; and
- j) Intend to continue the primary production irrigation enterprise; and
- k) Have lodged an application by the close of applications.

4.2 Applicants will not be eligible for a grant, or part of a grant, if:

- a) The applicant does not meet the criteria as outlined above; or
- b) The applicant has received, or has been approved to receive, financial assistance for costs associated with the items from another government assistance scheme (however the applicant may be eligible for a grant for costs that are in excess of funding provided by another scheme); or
- c) The applicant is entitled to receive a payment under an insurance policy for costs directly associated with an item (however the applicant may be eligible for a grant for costs that are not covered by their insurance, or for amounts in excess of the value insured); or
- d) Another party to the primary production irrigation enterprise (for example a party holding a separate ABN number) has already applied for a grant under this program.

All claims for assistance will be assessed on a case by case basis.

5 Ineligible activities

Assistance is not available for:

- a) Loss of income.
- b) Direct loss of value of crops or livestock.
- c) Levee bank construction and advice.
- d) Own labour and own equipment costs.

- e) Costs associated with repair and replacement of housing and personal effects.
- f) Costs which have been or are expected to be reimbursed through an insurance claim or another funding source.
 - note that applicants may be eligible for a grant for costs that are in excess of the value insured (see Section 4.4c).
- g) Primary producers located outside the defined flooding area.

6 Eligible separate businesses

An eligible separate business is a commercial entity that would be a commercially viable and autonomous business if other businesses operated by the primary production irrigation enterprise ceased to operate.

Applicants who operate more than one primary production irrigation enterprise under a single ABN on separate properties in different locations in an affected local government council area that have been required to relocate or re-establish pumping and/or generator infrastructure due to a loss of power may apply for assistance up to the maximum amount available for the eligible flood area for each eligible business.

Consideration of eligible separate primary production irrigation enterprises may cover:

- a) The staffing arrangements of the separate primary production irrigation enterprises.
- b) Whether the primary production irrigation enterprises have their own plant, equipment or stock.
- c) The accounting arrangements of the separate primary production irrigation enterprises.
- d) Whether the separate primary production irrigation enterprises operate under their own trading names.
- e) The commercial scale, viability and autonomy of each primary production irrigation enterprise.

7 Terms and conditions

Successful applicants will be required to:

- a) Provide any additional information required by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) to assess an application (this may include financial statements and tax returns and business projections for the primary production irrigation enterprise if required); and
- b) Agree to subsequent audits under the grant program including permission for on-farm access to confirm that grant funding provided has been expended on approved purposes.

8 Definitions

Defined flooding area: a Local Government Council Area that has been affected by the River Murray Floods defined in section 1 of the guidelines.

Eligible separate business: an eligible separate business means a commercial entity that would be a commercially viable and autonomous business if other businesses operated by the primary production irrigation enterprise ceased to operate.

Loss of power: the complete or partial interruption of electric power due to condition beyond the primary producer's control which has resulted in the loss of ability to irrigate.

Official invoice: an invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice, and a description of each item to which the invoice relates which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant.

Official quote: a quote including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity issuing the quote, and an itemised description of the goods and/or services which is clearly identifiable as being related to proposed expenditure for the applicant.

Official receipt: a receipt including the name and address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the receipt and a description of each item to which the receipt relates.

Primary production irrigation enterprise:

- a) Is established under the legal structure of a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company; and
- b) Trades in a primary production industry, (including horticulture, viticulture, dairy, broadacre cropping), accessing River Murray water for irrigation or stock water activities of their business; and
- c) Undertakes all primary production aspects of the business wholly in Australia; and
- d) Is registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- e) Hold a Class 3 water access entitlement or be a member of an Irrigation Trust;
- f) Is not under external administration or bankruptcy; and
- g) Is not a public company under the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

9 Other matters

Grants under this program may result in financial, taxation, legal or other implications for the primary producer. It is strongly recommended applicants seek independent financial advice in regard to these possible impacts. Applicants may also seek advice from the Australian Tax Office on 1800 806 218 if they have further questions about their individual situation.

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 result in an offence being committed 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 funds.

11 Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the South Australian Government and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

The South Australian Government reserve the right in their absolute discretion to amend the guidelines without notice or discontinuing the program.