

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 following a declared Natural Disaster event, where there is a threat to livestock safety and welfare.

Note: Drought is no longer a declared natural disaster

2. Assistance available

Subsidies of up to 50% of the total freight costs to a maximum of \$15,000 per farm enterprise per financial year. The \$15,000 is counted within a financial year from the date when the payment is made to the applicant.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance you must demonstrate that:

- You are the owner and/or operator (eg. Lessee) of a farm business in NSW;
- Your business operates as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company and trades agricultural products;
- Your business is registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a primary producer, and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- The owners and operators of the business earn more than 50% of their gross income from the primary production enterprise under normal seasonal circumstances.
- Your primary production business is located within an eligible area as defined in the list of Declared Natural Disasters (list available on the NSW Rural Assistance Authority website <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/declared-natural-disasters>).

4. Exclusions

- Intensive industries such as piggeries, poultry units or feedlots where stock are purchased, fattened and sold; and backgrounding where stock are fattened prior to move into a feedlot are not eligible for assistance.
- If a farming business has already claimed \$15,000 in one financial year for this type of assistance, whether on one or more parcels of land, regardless of the location of those parcels within NSW, for one or more disasters, they are ineligible for this assistance.
- No subsidy will be paid on the transport of fodder weighing less than one (1) tonne. Loads

of less than one tonne may be assessed on a case by case basis. If eligible, loads between 500-999 kg are paid at a rate of 25% of the transport cost. Loads below 500 kg are not eligible. Subsidy will be paid for 25% of the transport cost for supplements, including liquid supplements, where the load is at least 500 kg.

- A maximum distance of 1500 km applies. If stock or fodder is moved a distance in excess of 1500 km, the subsidy is reduced on a pro rata basis.

5. Eligible Costs

- Transporting of fodder for stock (including bees) to properties
- Transporting of stock (including bees) to agistment
- Returning stock (including bees) from agistment.
- Transport of stock to sale or slaughter.
- Transport of stock drinking water.
- Transport of domestic water.

6. Claiming and Payment Provisions

- Subsidy will be paid for road transport at a rate of 50% of the total amount paid to the carrier or costs for an owner driver.
- In the case of an owner/driver, payment will be provided in line with the km rate table below. A copy of the registration certificate for the vehicle used for transport, must be provided.
- Owner driver claims of under 100 kms do not require a log book.

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

- d) The first claim must be submitted no more than six (6) months after the declaration, with the first movement to take place within the first three (3) months of an event. All claims must be submitted within 9 months after the declaration.
- e) Costs of transportation must be paid prior to lodging a claim for the subsidy.
- f) Proof of payment through inclusion of tax invoices for expenses, must be provided with the claim form.
- g) The \$15,000 is counted within a financial year from the date when the payment is made to the applicant.
- h) The amount to be paid is the GST exclusive amount.
- i) If an ABN is not supplied, the subsidy will be reduced by an amount equivalent to the highest tax rate, which is subsequently forwarded to the Australian Taxation Office.

7. Transport Provisions

- a) For transport of emergency fodder, the subsidy is available from the point of purchase to the affected property and applies only to the loaded portion of the journey.
- b) 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.
- c) Movement of stock that can be claimed, can occur between the natural disaster event and no later than twelve (12) months after the declaration of the event.
- d) A maximum distance of 1,500 kms applies, except for the movement of water for which the maximum distance is 500 km.

8. Stock to and from Agistment, or to Sale or Slaughter

- a) Subsidy is available for the forward and return journeys (for loaded portions of travel)
- b) Stock can be transported to agistment up to three months after the declared disaster.
- c) If the owner is forced to move stock off the agistment property, additional claims will be considered on a case by case basis.
- d) The stockowner must have no prior arrangement/ agreement or contract to sell or otherwise dispose of the stock to the owner of an agistment property.
- e) Stock consigned to a custom or commercial feedlot on maintenance rations may be eligible for transport subsidies to and from the feedlot.
- f) 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 (eg. transporting bulls).
- g) Subsidy is not to be used for the movement of stock that are not fit to travel. Stock owners must always comply with the provisions of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

9. Fodder

- a) The movement of fodder must be to a landholder's property, a travelling stock reserve, leased or agisted property.
- b) Fodder must only be obtained for the feeding of disaster affected stock. The amount purchased per order must only be for a maximum three (3) month feed period for the stock on hand, and not for long term storage purposes.
- c) 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.
- d) Subsidy will be paid for 25% of the transport cost for fodder for dairy cattle.
- e) Transport of fodder for stock consigned to a commercial feedlot on maintenance rations may be eligible for rebates.

10. Drinking Water (for stock including bees, and domestic use)

- a) Subsidy for the transport of water is only available if water is carted from the nearest practicable source.
- b) The transport of water within a holding is eligible for a subsidy as long as the roundtrip distance is 15km or greater to a suitable storage facility that minimises evaporation.
- c) Minimum movement: (all stock including bees) must be greater than 1,000 litres per transportation only one movement will be subsidised per day.
- d) Water cartage to stock on a travelling stock reserve or agistment property is eligible for subsidy.
- e) Transport subsidies will not be paid for the transport of water for irrigation.
- f) Subsidies for the transport of domestic water may be paid to Local Land Service (LLS) ratepayers or persons who rent/lease a house on LLS rated land.

11. Bees

- a) Claimants must sign a statutory declaration that the movement of beehives is abnormal to their usual management practices and is entirely as a result of the declared natural disaster event.
- b) If the movement is undertaken by the owner for purpose of buying bee food, receipts for the purchase of the bee food are to be provided with the claim.
- c) For Crown Land a copy of the apiary site arrangement or nectar licence for the site that has been disaster affected must accompany each claim.
- d) Where the site is on private land a statement from the property owner that the land is disaster affected must accompany each claim.
- e) The movement of beehives to another site is a one way journey only. A subsidy for movement of the hives to a third site will be provided if it can be demonstrated that this movement was not part of the beekeepers usual practices and is as a result of there being a shortage of feed at the second site.
- f) Honey producers must obtain bee foods from the nearest practicable source to the bees.

- g) For bee food the movement may be from the location where purchased to the new site where the bees are located.
- h) Subsidy will not be provided to move the hives back to the original site.

12. Fraudulent claims

- a) By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the claim form and supporting documentation is true and accurate.
- b) Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.
- c) If any information provided in an claim 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. Important Information

- a) Guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.
- b) 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 prior to claim.
- c) The guidelines that apply to your claim will be the guidelines that are current at the time your claim is received by RAA.
- d) 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.

14. Assessment

- a) Claims 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 claim and to verify any information provided in your claim.
- b) Failure to provide such information may result in RAA refusing your claim.
- c) RAA also reserves the right to refuse an claim, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason

irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.

- d) Claims submitted may be subject to audit by RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

15. Claims

Claims for assistance under the program must be made on RAA's claim form and be accompanied by the documentation requested in the claim form.

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

Claimants 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.

Claim forms can be submitted by email, post, or in person. Claim forms that have been submitted online can be tracked most efficiently.

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

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

In Person: 105 Prince St, Orange NSW 2800

The first claim must be received by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on or before the closing date for the Natural Disaster Declaration.