



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 2024 Drought Response Interest-Free Loan

#### Where can I go to find information about the loan?

Visit our 2024 Drought Response [web page: Interest-Free Loans | Agriculture and Food](#)

#### How much is the loan and what can I use the money for?

A loan of \$25,000 per farm business is available to help cover the cost of stockfeed, water, transportation, and other infrastructure that supports drought resilience.

#### When does the loan scheme round open and close?

Applications for the 2024 Drought Response Interest-Free Loan will open at 5 PM on 21 June 2024 and close at midnight on Saturday, 30 November 2024, or earlier if funding is exhausted.

For more information, please refer to the scheme guidelines on this web page: [Interest-Free Loans | Agriculture and Food](#) Check back regularly for updates.

#### How do I apply for the loan?

Applications can be submitted online through the SmartyGrants [webpage](#).

If you need assistance with applying, please reach out to our staff for support by emailing [ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpird.wa.gov.au) or calling 08 9368 3082.

#### What documentation or evidence do I need to provide when applying for the loan?

Details regarding the required documentation can be found in the loan scheme guidelines on this web page: [Interest-Free Loans | Agriculture and Food](#). It is preferred that all documents be uploaded as separate PDF files. Please ensure they are clear and legible.

#### What is a farm business?

To be eligible for an Interest-Free Loan, your farm business must demonstrate that it primarily grows, produces, and sells primary produce. Your eligibility as a farm business will be assessed based on the evidence provided, ensuring that you are predominantly engaged in agricultural production.

## **Which farm businesses are considered to have prospects of ongoing financial viability?**

To qualify for an Interest-Free Loan, your farm business must demonstrate prospects of ongoing financial viability within the loan term. A farm business is considered financially viable when it generates sufficient net profit after covering fixed and variable expenses to:

- Service borrowings at commercial interest rates
- Provide an adequate standard of living for relevant members of the farm business
- Allow for on-farm investment to maintain the farm's productive assets
- Provide funds for investments that increase long-term productivity.

In addition to the viability assessment above, your farm business must:

- Demonstrate the capacity to repay the loan, and
- Be able to provide sufficient and satisfactory security to allow the lodgement of a caveat.

## **What steps are necessary to certify proof of identity documents?**

DPIRD is required to verify the identity of the following individuals included in this application, this includes:

- Sole Traders
- Partners in a Partnership
- Beneficial owners in a company
- Individual Trustees to a Trust
- All authorised signatories (those who would be signing loan documentation).

Certified copies of identity documents must be provided with this application. A certified copy refers to a document certified as a true copy of the original by an acceptable referee, as listed below:

- a permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with two (2) or more years continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
- Justice of Peace
- a Police Officer
- a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, CPA Australia or the National Institute of Accountants with two (2) or more years of continuous membership
- any other individual before whom a statutory declaration may be made (see Schedule 2 of the Statutory Declarations Regulations 2018 (Cwth)).

Also refer to the 100 Point Checklist For Identification Documents list

## What is considered eligible expenditure of the Loan?

You will need to provide invoices reflecting expenditure exceeding \$25,000 attributable to the impact of the dry season. Invoices dated from 1 December 2023 onwards are deemed acceptable. Such expenditure should pertain to stock feed, water, transportation, or the development of feed silos, water tanks, enhanced irrigation systems, or any other infrastructure conducive to drought resilience.

Please contact us by emailing [ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpiird.wa.gov.au) or calling 08 9368 3082 you are not sure whether expenditure will fall within the guidelines.

## When will I receive the money?

Once we've received all required information, we will notify you of your loan application outcome within 10 business days. Shortly after that we will send you documentation for you to sign. Money should be paid to your nominated bank account within 10 business days of us receiving these signed documents back, and a caveat registered.

## Where can I get further information or advice?

Questions regarding the scheme can be directed to DPIRD's Rural Business Development Unit in WA by emailing [ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:ruralbusiness.developmentunit@dpiird.wa.gov.au) or calling 08 9368 3082 before the scheme closing date.

Important: For further information, support or advice, please see visit [Season 2024: information for WA farmers webpage](#) and click on the [Funding and Support Info Sheet](#).

### Important Disclaimer

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