

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory Notes for SL 2025 No. 11

made under the

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994

General Outline

Short title

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2025

Authorising law

Sections 3, 10, 11 and 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2025* amends the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* (the Regulation) to extend the coverage of disaster recovery assistance to include replacing crops by primary producers from the recent North and Far North Tropical Low and future such events.

The Department of Primary Industries is the program owner for the Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme (SDARGs) established under Schedule 23 of the Regulation.

It is proposed that replacing crops would specifically include: cost of seed, seedlings or plants, and associated freight costs; eligible labour and/or contracting costs of replanting; fuel consumed by replanting; and any cost of fertiliser or chemicals used for the initial replanting only. It is also proposed that replacing crops would only be eligible to replant the first year of a sugarcane crop or sown pastures.

It is further proposed that replacing crops is only included in SDARGs from the recent event of North and Far North Tropical Low (commencing 29 January 2025) and all future events.

Achievement of policy objectives

The *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2025* achieves the objectives by amending the Regulation to extend the coverage of disaster recovery assistance to include replacing crops by primary producers from the recent North and Far North Tropical Low and future such natural disasters.

It is desirable to have the proposed amendments to commence as soon as reasonably practicable in order to provide assistance to primary producers incurring costs to replace crops as a result of the recent North and Far North Tropical Low and future such natural disasters.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the objectives of the Act. The Amendment Regulation will enable the Rural and Industry Development Authority to administer expanded assistance that gives assistance to benefit the State's economy and support communities in the State.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no feasible alternative ways to achieve the objectives other than through amendments to the Regulation.

The risks from not progressing these amendments include an unfair adverse impact on those primary producers who incur costs to replace crops as a result of the recent North and Far North Tropical Low flooding and future such events.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Assisting businesses who incur costs to replace crops will assist more rapid recovery from natural disasters, resulting in higher levels of economic activity and employment in affected communities.

Natural disaster assistance is provided on a cost-shared basis with the Australian Government. Through its National Emergency Management Agency, the Australian Government has agreed with the proposed extension of assistance.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

This Amendment Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles as stated in the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* and has no adverse impact on the rights and liberties of individuals or on the institution of Parliament.

Consultation

In accordance with *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* (the Better Regulation Policy), an Impact Analysis Statement has been prepared which indicates the proposal relates to the provision of financial assistance that does not increase costs or regulatory burden on business or the community and is not subject to regulatory impact assessment requirements under the Better Regulation Policy.

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