

The Natural Disaster Relief Scheme assists Small Business Operators directly affected by a declared natural disaster.

Assistance under this scheme by its nature is not compensatory therefore applicants need to be in urgent and genuine need of assistance.

1. Objectives

Essential Working Capital.

Note: The amount required to enable the business to return to its normal level of trading or until the next major income is received. Maximum period 12 months from date of disaster.

Replacement and repair of damage caused to the property and associated improvements not covered by insurance.

Note: Assistance does not cover costs unrelated to the business or commitments overdue at the time of the disaster, such as; trading accounts, lease or hire purchase instalments, interest on borrowings or loan repayments.

2. Amount

A loan to a maximum of \$130,000 is available.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- a) Earn the majority of your GROSS income from the business.
- b) Be in working occupation of your business.
- c) Operate your main business within a Local Government Area that has been declared a natural disaster and intends to re-establish within that Local Government Area.
- d) Have suffered damage to your business premises as a direct result of the natural disaster.
- e) Be in urgent and genuine need of financial assistance.
- f) Demonstrate that if the required assistance were obtained commercially, your business would be placed in financial difficulty.
- g) Demonstrate that your business has long-term viability.
- h) Demonstrate that your business has the capacity to repay the loan sought.
- i) Provide security, acceptable to the NSW Rural Assistance Authority.

- j) Lodge an application within six months of the declaration of a natural disaster.

4. Interest

The interest rate is a concessional rate of interest, fixed for the term of the loan. The rate is currently 0.82%

5. Term

A repayment term of up to ten years dependent upon the amount borrowed and the applicant's ability to repay.

The repayment term is preceded by a two-year interest and repayment free period.

6. Repayments

Monthly, Half Yearly, Quarterly or Annual repayments of principle and interest.

7. Security

Registered mortgage over land, not necessarily a first mortgage. Other security, including a mortgage from another person may be considered.

Note: In assessing this requirement the Authority will take into account all cash reserves, investments, undrawn overdraft balances plus loans with redraw facilities.

Funds will not be released until all security requirements have been satisfied.

8. Fraudulent claims

- a) By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application 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 application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the funds.

9. 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 application.
- c) The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application 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.

10. Assessment

- a) Applications 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 application and to verify any information provided in your application.
- b) Failure to provide such information may result in RAA refusing your application.
- c) RAA also reserves the right to refuse an application, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.
- d) Applications submitted may be subject to audit by RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

11. Applications

Applications for assistance under the program must be made on RAA's application form and be accompanied by the documentation stated in the application form.

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

Applicants 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.

Before applying for financial assistance under this program or making any decision, applicants should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine their eligibility for and the terms of the financial assistance.

Applications and claim forms can be submitted online, by email, post, fax or in person. Applications and claim forms that have been emailed can be tracked most efficiently.

Online: <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/loan-application-online-form>

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

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

Fax: (02) 6391 3098

In Person: 161 Kite St, Orange NSW 2800

Applications must be received by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority NO later than the closing date.

Applications received after the advertised application closing date, in any other circumstances will NOT be accepted.