

# Flood Assistance Newsletter – January 2011

## Queensland Floods

As a result of the flooding which has impacted communities throughout Queensland, the following assistance packages are available to both small businesses and individuals that have been affected.

### Assistance for Small Business

Primary producers and small business owners who have suffered direct damage from recent flooding can apply for *Special Disaster Flood Assistance Grants*.

#### What Assistance is Available?

##### Grants

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to assist eligible primary producers and small businesses as follows:

- Initial claim: up to \$5,000 to assist you with immediate early recovery (subject to future QRAA audit)
- Subsequent claim: up to \$20,000 to recover costs that you have paid in order to repair direct flood damage.

##### Low Interest Loans

Primary producers and small business owners who have suffered direct damage from recent flooding can apply for the following benefits:

- A loan of up to \$250,000
- Interest rate of 4%
- No fees and charges for the life of the loan
- Total term of up to 7 years (capacity to extend to 10 years after 4 years)

#### How Can the Assistance help you?

Assistance under this scheme is not intended to compensate for loss of income. However, it will help towards your recovery from the floods by assisting you with meeting the following eligible costs:

- Clean up, including purchasing, hiring or leasing plant equipment or materials
- Leasing temporary premises
- Removal of debris, restoration costs, repairing buildings or fittings in building other than houses
- Employing professionals for safety inspections

#### Need Some Help?

- **Grants up to: \$25,000**
- **Low Interest Loans : Up to \$250,000**



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## Assistance for Individuals

### HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED?

- **Payment: \$1,000 per Adult**
- **Payment: \$400 per Child**

### What Assistance is Available?

The Australian Disaster Recovery Payment (ADRP) will be provided to eligible people adversely affected by the Queensland flooding. The payment is to provide immediate, one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the disaster (\$1 000 per adult and \$400 per child)

### Who is eligible?

- a person who was seriously injured,
- or a person who is the immediate family member of an Australian killed as a direct result of the disaster, or
- a person's whose principal place of residence has been destroyed, or
- a person's whose principal place of residence has sustained major damage, or
- a person who is unable to gain access to their principal place of residence for a period of 24 hours or more, or
- a person who is stranded in their principal place of residence for a period of 24 hours or more, or
- a person's whose principal place of residence was without electricity, water, gas, sewerage services or another essential service for at least 48 hours (a utility failure) and the utility failure was caused by damage to public or private infrastructure, or
- a person who is a principal carer of a dependent child who has experienced any of the above.

***Claims for this assistance must be lodged by you at Centrelink by the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.***

## Tax assistance for flood victims

Flood victims in Queensland can get their tax payments deferred and refunds fast tracked. The ATO can provide the following services:

- Fast tracking refunds
- Providing people and businesses extra time to pay debts – without interest charges
- Giving extra time to meet activity statement, income tax and other lodgement obligations – without penalties
- Helping to reconstruct tax records where documents have been destroyed and make reasonable estimates where necessary
- Assisting people who are experiencing serious hardship.



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