



Queensland

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Agribusiness Digital Solutions Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023

Subordinate Legislation 2023 No. 86

made under the

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994

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1 Short title

This regulation may be cited as the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Agribusiness Digital Solutions Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2023*.

2 Regulation amended

This regulation amends the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*.

3 Insertion of new sch 51

After schedule 50—

insert—

Schedule 51 Agribusiness digital solutions grants scheme

section 3(1)

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Objective of scheme

The objective of the scheme is to provide assistance that will—

- (a) help eligible entities carry out projects that result in the trialling and adoption of digital technologies or systems in supply chains within the agribusiness sector or primary production industries in Queensland; and
- (b) improve the resilience of the agribusiness sector or primary production industries in Queensland by adopting digital technologies

or systems that increase the ability of the sector or industries to—

- (i) respond to potential disruptions in supply chains within the sector or industries; or
- (ii) deal with risks to the sector or industries related to biosecurity, climate and food safety.

2 Purpose of assistance

The purpose of assistance under the scheme is to provide grants to eligible entities to—

- (a) help the entities improve the resilience of the agribusiness sector or primary production industries in Queensland; and
- (b) carry out projects that will produce benefits that can be shared across the agribusiness sector or a primary production industry in Queensland.

3 Definitions for schedule

In this schedule—

applicant means an entity applying for financial assistance under the scheme.

eligible entity see section 5.

eligible project see section 4.

scheme means the scheme set out in this schedule.

4 Meaning of *eligible project*

An *eligible project* is a project the authority is satisfied—

- (a) will result in the trialling and adoption of digital technologies or systems that will

benefit the agribusiness sector, a primary production industry or a part of a primary production industry in Queensland; and

- (b) will achieve the objective of the scheme; and
- (c) will produce benefits that can be shared across the agribusiness sector or a primary production industry in Queensland.

5 Meaning of *eligible entity*

- (1) An entity is an *eligible entity* if the entity—
 - (a) holds an Australian Business Number; and
 - (b) is registered for GST; and
 - (c) is either—
 - (i) an industry organisation; or
 - (ii) an entity established to advance or promote the economic development of the agribusiness sector, a primary production industry or a part of a primary production industry in Queensland; and
 - (d) has its headquarters in Queensland.
- (2) However, an entity is not an *eligible entity* if the entity is—
 - (a) a government entity; or
 - (b) a higher education provider within the meaning of the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (Cwlth).
- (3) In this section—

government entity means—

 - (a) a government entity within the meaning of the *Public Sector Act 2022*, section 276; or
 - (b) a local government; or

- (c) entertainment costs;
 - (d) inventory and warehousing costs;
 - (e) costs related to securing or managing a grant;
 - (f) costs related to general administration or operational activities.
- (3) The maximum amount of the financial assistance available under a round of the scheme for an eligible entity for an eligible project is the total of—
- (a) the lesser of the following amounts—
 - (i) \$100,000;
 - (ii) 50% of the total cost of the eligible project (exclusive of GST and of any costs mentioned in subsection (2)); and
 - (b) an amount for any GST payable in relation to the granting of financial assistance under the scheme.

7 Scheme to operate in rounds

- (1) The scheme will operate in rounds.
- (2) Each round of the scheme—
 - (a) opens on the day stated on the authority's website as the day on which the round opens; and
 - (b) closes at the end of the day stated on the authority's website as the day on which the round closes.

8 Eligibility criteria

- (1) For an applicant to be eligible to receive assistance under a round of the scheme, the applicant must—

- (a) be an eligible entity; and
 - (b) be applying for assistance for an eligible project; and
 - (c) if there is a previously approved eligible project for the eligible entity—have completed the previously approved eligible project; and
 - (d) not have previously received assistance under the round of the scheme for a project; and
 - (e) not have received other government funding for the eligible project; and
 - (f) demonstrate to the authority's satisfaction that—
 - (i) the applicant has the ability to pay the remaining cost of the eligible project; and
 - (ii) under the eligible project, the applicant will own, or have a licence to use, the product or service the subject of the project in a way that will allow the applicant to share details about the operation and outcomes of the project with the authority, the department and other entities; and
 - (iii) the eligible project represents reasonable value for money.
- (2) In this section—
- government funding** means financial assistance, other than a loan, provided by the Commonwealth government, the government of a State or a local government.
- previously approved eligible project**, for an eligible entity, means—

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- (a) a project for which the eligible entity received a grant of financial assistance under the program called 'Agribusiness digital solutions grant program' administered by the department; or
- (b) an eligible project for which the eligible entity received a grant of financial assistance under a previous round of the scheme.

remaining cost, of an eligible project, means the difference between—

- (a) the total cost of the eligible project (inclusive of GST and of any costs mentioned in section 6(2)); and
- (b) the amount worked out under section 6(3)(a) for the eligible project.

9 Applications

- (1) For each round of the scheme, an application for assistance under the scheme must—
 - (a) be made in the approved form; and
 - (b) be accompanied by the documents stated in the approved form; and
 - (c) be given to the authority while the round of the scheme is open.
- (2) If the authority asks the applicant to give further information to decide the application, the applicant must give the authority the information.
- (3) In this section—

approved form means a form approved by the authority.

10 Deciding applications

- (1) The authority must consider, and decide to

approve or refuse to approve, each application for assistance under the scheme that complies with section 9.

- (2) In approving an application, the authority may, with the agreement of the applicant, approve a lesser amount of assistance than the amount applied for in the application.
- (3) The authority must refuse to approve an application if the authority's assistance funds for a round of the scheme are not sufficient to pay for the assistance applied for in the application.
- (4) The authority may seek the advice of persons with suitable qualifications and experience to help the authority in deciding an application.
- (5) If the authority refuses to approve an application, the authority must give the applicant written notice of the decision.

11 Priority of consideration for approval of applications

- (1) The authority must consider approving applications for assistance under a round of the scheme in the following decreasing order of priority—
 - (a) applications for assistance for eligible projects the authority considers will provide the greatest benefit to the agribusiness sector or primary production industries in Queensland consistent with the objective of the scheme;
 - (b) applications for assistance for eligible projects the authority considers will provide the least benefit to the agribusiness sector or primary production industries in Queensland consistent with the objective of the scheme.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the authority may consider the following matters in relation to prioritising an application for assistance for an eligible project—
- (a) the potential of the eligible project to achieve the objective of the scheme;
 - (b) the extent to which the eligible project may create or support employment or economic growth in Queensland;
 - (c) whether the eligible project represents reasonable value for money;
 - (d) the viability of the eligible project.

12 Conditions of assistance

The payment to an eligible entity of a grant of financial assistance under the scheme is subject to the following conditions—

- (a) before receiving the assistance, the entity must enter into a written agreement with the authority that sets out the terms on which the assistance is provided;
- (b) the entity must comply with the terms of the agreement mentioned in paragraph (a).

ENDNOTES

- 1 Made by the Governor in Council on 6 July 2023.
- 2 Notified on the Queensland legislation website on 7 July 2023.
- 3 The administering agency is the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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