

Primary Producers FAQ



The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is proud to support the Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP). To help farmers navigate the connectivity investment landscape and make informed decisions for their business, the On Farm Connectivity Information Service is provided by the NFF's Regional Tech Hub to provide free and independent advice on producers' connectivity options.

Get in touch by booking a time to speak with our team, contacting us on 1300 081 029, or booking via our [website](#).

*Please note this is a living document and will be updated when relevant.

Primary Producers Frequently Asked Questions Rd2

Q1: Who is eligible for the OFCP grant?

To participate in the program, your business must:

- be a registered business and have an ABN that has been active for the previous 12 months at the time of applying
- have an annual average pre-tax income from primary production of between \$40,000 and \$4 million. Annual average gross income is calculated as the average of the previous 3 full financial years' income for each ABN
- not be a hobby farmer
- operate an eligible primary production activity that is defined as those listed in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006 (revision 2.0) codes under Division A, Agricultural Forestry and Fishing, Subdivisions 01, 02 and 03
- agree to the department contacting you for a case study about your connectivity solution for the On Farm Connectivity Program up to 2 years after the Program has closed.
- You can find eligible ANZSIC codes in Appendix D of the On Farm Connectivity Program Round 2 - Grant Opportunity Guidelines

As part of the application process, you will be asked to complete a declaration confirming the above.



Q2: Can I use my local supplier?

Yes, if the supplier is on the approved supplier list.

Q3: Who are the approved suppliers currently?

Access the current approved suppliers list [here](#).

Q4: How much is the grant (rebate)?

Under Round 2 of the Program, the rebate amount will be up to 50% of the cost of eligible equipment.

- the minimum grant (rebate) amount is \$1,000 (GST exclusive)
- the maximum grant (rebate) amount is \$30,000 (GST exclusive).

There is no limit to the amount an eligible Primary Producer may spend, however, the rebate cannot exceed \$30,000 (GST exclusive).

Primary Producers can purchase eligible equipment from multiple Approved Suppliers, to a total combined value of \$30,000 (GST exclusive).

Q5: What equipment is eligible?

Eligible connectivity equipment or solutions can be found in the [Catalogue of eligible equipment](#).

Eligible connectivity solutions can be delivered through LPWAN, satellite cellular and/or Wi-Fi technology.

There are five broad categories of eligible connectivity solutions and associated eligible equipment:

- Low Power Wide Area Networks (LPWAN)
- Connectivity equipment:
- Environmental monitoring:
- Farm management:
- Remote automation and control





Other eligible expenditure items include subscriptions for data aggregation platforms and software, training costs, delivery and installation costs.

Important notice - Any supplementary products offered by the Approved Supplier are not eligible for the Program and must be purchased outside of the Program.

Q6: Can I claim installation and delivery costs?

Yes, the OFCP Grant Opportunity Guidelines allows for installation and delivery to be claimed as part of the rebate.

Q7: Are insurance and maintenance costs eligible for the rebate?

No, insurance, operation and maintenance costs are not eligible for the rebate.

Q8: How does the process work?

The process for a rebate is multi step as follows.

Step 1—Support: Primary Producer may engage with the Regional Tech Hub to discuss their connectivity needs and get personalised advice.

Step 2—Choose: Primary Producer engages with and selects a connectivity solution from an Approved Supplier.

Step 3—Quote: Primary Producer receives, then accepts quotes from an Approved Supplier.

Step 4—Application submission: Approved Supplier submits rebate application.
Step 5—Application assessment: Business Grants Hub assesses application (estimated 2-6 week turnaround).

Step 6—Rebate outcome: Approved Supplier and Primary Producer advised.

Step 7—Invoice: Primary Producer receives invoice at discounted price of up to 50% off from Eligible Equipment Supplier.

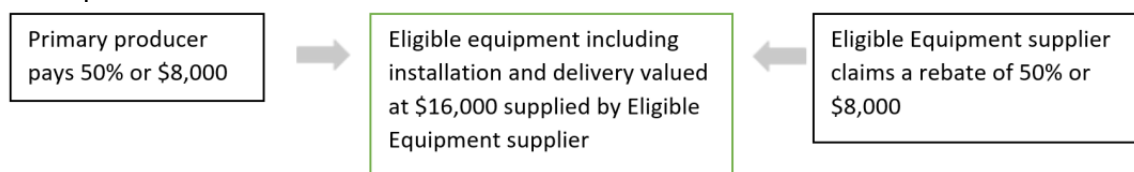
Step 8—Payment: Primary Producer pays invoice.



Step 9—Equipment installed / shipped: Approved Supplier ships product. If required, an appointment is arranged to install the connectivity solution and/or train the Primary Producer in how to use the connectivity solution.

Step 10—Rebate claim: Approved Supplier is required to submit rebate claims to the Business Grants Hub for payment within a 120-day timeframe, or by 31 May 2025, whichever is sooner.

Example:



Q9: Do I receive the rebate?

No, this program has been developed whereby the supplier will receive the rebate. Therefore, you only pay the difference between full cost and the rebate amount.

Q10: What if you purchased equipment prior to round two opening?

Any purchases prior to the opening of Round Two are not eligible for a rebate. Further, any purchases prior to approval within the Business Grants Hub will not be eligible for the rebate.

Q11: How much money is available and when will it run out?

There is \$33 million allocated over two rounds. The second round is currently open and has \$18 million allocated. The rebate is available until 31 May 2025, or until funding is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

Q12: My operation is complex. Where do I start?

We understand that every primary producer's operation varies a great deal from one property to another, with different priorities and outcomes sought.

Therefore, it is suggested to think about what is your biggest worry or hassle that technology may be able to solve. Maybe it is how do I keep the fuel storage



secure on the farm using CCTV, or do I have a large cattle property with numerous water troughs that need monitoring.

Q13: Where can I find help?

There are many great resources available online to help you navigate how to get the best out of the grant money available.

The [Regional Tech Hub](#) website contains numerous fact sheets, guides and case studies about the program and AgTech. They also provide a free 1-to-1 consultation service which can be booked online.

The [Federal Government's OFCP](#) website lists the suppliers and equipment approved.

Another great resource is [Ag Tech Finder](#), an independent marketplace helping Australian farmers and producers search, sort, and compare AgTech solutions. This website is an initiative of nonprofit Food Agility CRC.

Question 14: Can I purchase multiple (different) technologies through the one supplier to make up the \$6000 cost or does it have to be spent on one technology?

There are no restrictions on the makeup of your technology mix. Every producer's operation will have different requirements to meet their outcomes.

For example, you may buy a LPWAN_network to run multiple water tank level sensors, plus purchase a network booster for your Homestead Wi-Fi network.

Question 15: Can I purchase technology from more than one supplier under the program?

Yes, the only requirement is that they would need to be separate applications and meet the minimum spend to qualify for the OFCP rebate.

Please Note: Primary Producers can purchase eligible equipment from multiple Approved Suppliers, to a total combined value of \$30,000 (GST exclusive).



Question 16: Can we find an approved supplier list with more details such as locations served and what equipment they offer?

The approved supplier list for the second round includes more information about their locations served and eligible equipment types.

Question 17: What is the minimum that must be spent?

The minimum that must be spent is \$2000 to qualify for the 50% rebate.

Question 18: Can family trusts apply?

Yes, if you meet the program guidelines- a primary producer, valid ABN and less than \$2 million annual turnover.

Question 19: How can we provide feedback on the program?

The department welcomes all feedback, and this can be sent to OFCP@communications.gov.au

Question 20: Can building construction to house connectivity and AgTech equipment be covered under the program?

No, the program does not cover additional construction as it falls outside the OFCP guidelines.

Question 21: Does the OFCP cover “farmer consortiums”?

No, each individual primary producer would need to make an application to OFCP.

Question 22: Can a primary producer apply for both round 1 and round 2?

Yes, primary producers are encouraged to engage with their approved suppliers and can apply for both rounds.





Question 23: How can I find out if a specific piece of equipment is eligible?

The best suggestion is to speak to your approved supplier about the piece of equipment and if they have it covered under OFCP.

The Regional Tech Hub can also provide guidance via email helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au or contact 1300 081 029.

Question 24: Company we already deal for water monitoring solutions are promoting this program. Normally they have promotions/discounts especially for bulk orders but they are now claiming they are not permitted to offer this under the rebate scheme. Can anyone tell us if this is ok?

As part of being an approved supplier, the supplier must sell eligible equipment according to the price list they submitted with their application. A provision for a 20% price movement may also be utilised by the approved supplier, taking into account outside forces (i.e. shipping, exchange rate etc)

Question 25: Does the grant cover any ongoing costs involved with new tech? Hosting and monitoring fees for example.

The grant covers subscription fees for 12 months and training, to a maximum of 10 per cent of the total equipment cost. Ongoing operation and maintenance costs are ineligible.

