

# 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

### Q1: Who is eligible for the OFCP grant?

To participate in the program, your business must:

- be a registered business and have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have an annual average pre-tax income from primary production of between \$40,000 and \$2 million. (Annual average gross income is calculated as the average of the previous three 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. A full list can be found at Appendix D of the On Farm Connectivity Program Round 1 – 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)?**

The rebate amount will be up to 50 per cent of the cost of eligible equipment.

The minimum rebate amount is \$3,000.

The maximum rebate amount is \$30,000.

Please note, there is no limit to the amount an eligible primary producer may spend, however the rebate will not exceed \$30,000.

## **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.



### **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.

1 – Consult with an approved supplier about your needs and identify eligible equipment you wish to purchase.

2 - The supplier will then need to first apply to the Business Grants Hub and get confirmation that the program eligibility criteria have been met before selling the equipment.

3- Once the application has been approved, the equipment must be purchased within 60 days.

4 – The supplier then needs to submit a claim for the rebate.



### **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 before 27 October 2023?**

Any purchases prior to the opening of Round 1 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 \$30 million allocated over two rounds. The first round is currently open (27 October 2023) and has \$15 million allocated. The rebate is available until 31 May 2024, 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 make up 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.

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

Yes, we have developed in-house lists that show more details about what each supplier offers. \*Please note these lists have been developed to the best of our knowledge and may contain errors.

To obtain a copy please email [helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au](mailto:helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au) or contact 1300 081 029.

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

The minimum that must be spent is \$6000 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](mailto: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 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](mailto:helpdesk@regionaltechhub.org.au) or contact 1300 081 029.

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