

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.

<u>Get in touch by booking a time to speak with our team, contacting us on 1300</u> 081 029, or booking via our website.

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

# **Suppliers Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Q1: Can I become a new supplier now?

Unfortunately no, the current round (27 October 23 to 31 May 24) expression of interest (EOI) applications to become an approved supplier are closed.

But the department is interested to hear from new suppliers wanting to submit an EOI for the second round of funding. Please email them at <u>OFCP@communications.gov.au.</u>

#### Q2: How can I become an approved supplier?

To become an approved supplier for the On Farm Connectivity Program, your company would need to apply during the EOI process to participate in the program.

Communication will be forthcoming for the opening of the EOI process for round two of the Program. Please monitor the <u>department's website</u> for announcements or email via <u>OFCP@communications.gov.au.</u>

### Q3: Who are the approved suppliers currently?

The approved suppliers are currently listed 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 <u>Catalogue of</u> <u>eligible equipment</u>.

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. Please see the catalogue for further details.

## 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. Read the guidelines for further details.







# 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?

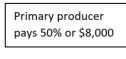
The process for a rebate is multi step as follows.

<u>1</u> – Consult with the primary producer about their needs and identify eligible equipment they wish to purchase from you.

<u>2</u> - You 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.

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

<u>4</u> – You the supplier then need to submit a claim for the rebate.



Eligible equipment including installation and delivery valued at \$16,000 supplied by Eligible Equipment supplier Eligible Equipment supplier claims a rebate of 50% or \$8,000

# Q9: What if a producer purchased equipment before Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 2023?

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

## Q10: 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.









#### Q11: When will I receive the rebate money?

Once a successful application is made to the business grants hub, the equipment must be purchased by the primary producer within 60 days. Once that occurs, you will need to submit a claim via the business grants hub.

#### 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

Version 1.2 23.11.23



Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



National Farmers Federation

