



Farm Business Resilience Program Phase 1 Wrapped Up, Phase 2 Underway

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The initial round of the Queensland Government’s new industry-wide drought assistance, the Farm Business Resilience Program, has now been completed. The program operated from July 2022 to September 2025 with some impressive outcomes and engagement achieved across the Queensland dairy industry during this time. Due to the success of the initial program, funding has been secured from both the Queensland and the Australian Government for Phase 2 of the project which will run from October 2025 to June 2029.

Phase 2 of the dairy FRBP project will be co-delivered in a similar way to Phase 1 of the project (see Figure 1). DPI Principal Extension Officer, Mark Bauer will be managing the program with delivery and input from DPI extension officers, Subtropical Dairy and eastAUSmilk.

Phase 1 of the project focussed heavily on assisting as many dairy farmers as possible to develop new Farm Business Resilience Plans. This process involved identifying the risks to the resilience of the business and then developing a plan to implement on farm actions which addressed these

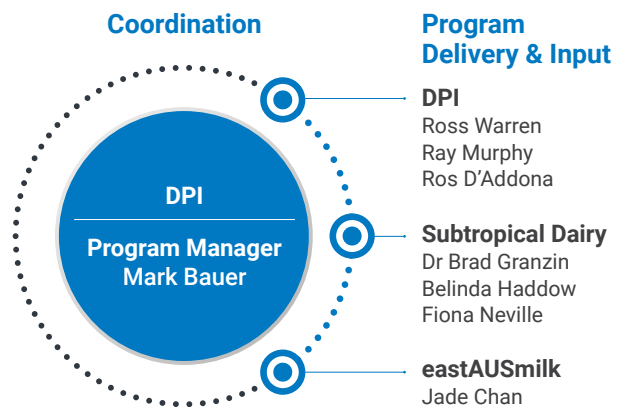


Figure 1. Structure of co-delivery of Phase 2 of the Farm Business Resilience Program for the Queensland Dairy Industry



Figure 2. Details of the programs and support available through each of the organisations co-delivering Phase 2 of the Dairy FBRP program.

risks. Through Phase 1 of the project, 132 Queensland dairy farms, or more than 50% of the industry, developed a Farm Business Resilience Plan. This was an outstanding result and exceeded the target of 120 farms for Phase 1 of the program. Additionally, from July 2022 to September 2025, across the co-delivery organisations of DPI, Subtropical Dairy and eastAUSmilk the FBRP program contributed funding towards 610 farm business resilience related sessions attended by 3,420 participants. These sessions included 1:1 farm visits, small and large group sessions, conducted either face to face or on-line, as well as regular discussion groups.

The strong uptake of Phase 1 of the program resulted in more than half of Queensland dairy farms developing a Farm Business Resilience Plan. Consequently, the focus of Phase 2 of the program will move to assisting farmers to implement and revise existing plans to ensure improving farm business resilience becomes a process of continuous improvement. Engaging with farmers who are yet to develop a plan will also be a priority in Phase 2. This will be achieved through support and capacity building programs available from the co-delivery organisations. Figure 2 provides details of the programs and support available from each of the co-delivery organisations.

From the start of Phase 1, the Queensland government has recognised the importance of implementing the actions identified in Farm Business Resilience plans to improving the drought resilience of agribusinesses. The initial Drought Preparedness Grant program administered by QRIDA was open for applications until mid-June 2025 and provided a significant incentive of up to \$50,000 for farmers to



implement the actions identified in their Farm Business Resilience plans. In late December 2025, the second Drought Preparedness Grant scheme was opened for applications. Similar to the first scheme, the drought preparedness grant may be used for purchasing, installing or upgrading permanent capital infrastructure, including

- a) pipes, water tanks and water troughs;
- b) dam construction and/or expansion (including de-silting);
- c) drilling a working bore;
- d) water conservation infrastructure and equipment including more efficient irrigation;
- e) water pumps and power supply used to run water pumps;
- f) construction or expansion of storage, mixing and feeding out equipment for grain, fodder, molasses and other supplements;
- g) grain storage and equipment that improves the ability of the grain growing business to manage drought;

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- h) reasonable freight components to purchase and install equipment or infrastructure;
- i) consumables including fuel for own machinery used in relation to the drought preparedness project; and
- j) contractor costs or non-salaried employee costs directly associated with implementing the drought preparedness project.

The images on this page show a range of capital infrastructure projects undertaken on Queensland dairy farms that were successful in applying for grant funding through the initial Drought Preparedness Grant scheme.

In the second round of the Drought Preparedness Grant scheme, the amount of the grant is 25 per cent of the cost of purchasing the permanent capital infrastructure, up to a maximum grant amount of \$50,000. The maximum grant amount of \$50,000 is inclusive of any grant received under the previous round of funding so, unfortunately, farmers who received the maximum \$50,000 in the initial drought preparedness grant scheme are not eligible to apply for this round. Additionally, to be eligible, the project must be identified in the action plan of the applicant's farm business resilience plan, and no more than a 50% deposit can be paid before the grant application is approved by QRIDA.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the opportunities available through the Farm Business Resilience Program or would like assistance to develop or revise a farm business resilience plan and/or apply for a drought preparedness grant, please contact a member of the FBRP team. ■■



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Drought and Climate Adaptation Program

