



Australian Government

Australian Government Live Export Business Assistance Package

FACT SHEET

There is help at hand for businesses directly affected by the suspension of live animal exports to Indonesia.

We know northern Australian cattle producers need to actively manage their cattle and properties, and make decisions on business costs like feed, hay covers, transport and repairs and maintenance before the next wet season. The Live Export Business Assistance Package will help businesses manage these costs and it's quick and easy to apply.

What's in the package?

The package, of up to **\$25,000** per business, has two components:

1. **Business Assistance Payment of \$5,000**
2. **Business Hardship Payment of up to \$20,000**

It will provide businesses with funds to cover some of their immediate operating expenses.

What can I use the payments for?

Payments can be used to cover any normal business expense such as fuel bills, feed/supplements for cattle, employee wages, financial advice, transport costs, equipment repairs and other payments to creditors. The \$5,000 is an upfront payment and the \$20,000 payment is a reimbursement.

Am I eligible?

Businesses are encouraged to call the Australian Government Assistance Line on **1800 808 869** to discuss eligibility, or seek independent advice from their accountant/financial advisor prior to making an application.

As a guide:

For the \$5,000 Business Assistance Payment a business must:

- have a registered ABN
- have less than \$10 million in annual turnover
- provide evidence that more than 50 per cent of business turnover was derived from the live export trade in one or more of the following financial years: 2008-09, 2009-10 or 2010-11.

For the \$20,000 Business Hardship Payment a business must:

- have received a Business Assistance Payment
- have continued to incur business expenses
- show that, in the usual course of business, expenses would have been paid from income derived from activities directly related to the live export trade and
- show that as a result of incurring these expenses, the business does not have adequate funds in reserve to meet such expenses.

Guidelines, including a full list of eligibility criteria and evidence required, are available at:
www.liveexports.gov.au/assistance

How do I apply for a payment or find out more?

For more information or to apply for a payment:

- call the Australian Government Assistance Line on **1800 808 869**
- visit www.centrelink.gov.au and **lodge an application online**
- download and complete an application form from www.centrelink.gov.au and **fax it to 1300 727 760, or post it to Reply Paid 7815, Canberra BC ACT 2610 or**
- **visit** any Centrelink office.

Applications must be lodged by close of business on **30 September 2011**.

Who else can give me advice?

You can:

- discuss your financial situation with your accountant, financial adviser or bank
- contact the Rural Financial Counselling Service, a free service that will be able to help you through the application process. Visit www.rfcs.gov.au or phone 1800 686 175 to find a counsellor near you.

Please do not self assess! For more information about the Live Export Business Assistance Package and other support available visit www.liveexports.gov.au