



Queensland Strawberry Growers Association Inc.

ABN: 32 632 123 440

P O Box 362 Narangba Qld 4504

office@qldstrawberries.com.au | 0438 752 177 | www.qldstrawberries.com.au

Queensland Government Assistance

Household utility payment – electricity relief

The government will provide \$200 towards water and electricity bills – \$200 will be automatically be deducted from electricity bills.

Small-Medium business – power bill relief

The government will provide \$500 towards electricity bills for businesses that consumer less than 100,000kWh (kilowatt hours) – \$500 will be automatically be deducted from electricity bills.

Payroll tax relief

You must apply for this one before 31 May 2020

A business is directly or indirectly affected by coronavirus if their current turnover, profit, customers, bookings, retail sales, supply contracts or other factors are negatively affected compared with normal operating conditions.

1. If you are an employer (or part of a group of employers) who pays \$6.5 million or less in Australian taxable wages:
 - refund of your payroll tax for 2 months
 - payroll tax holiday (i.e. no payroll tax to be paid) for 3 months.
 - You can also apply for a deferral of payroll tax for the 2020 calendar year. (If you have already applied for a deferral, you do not need not reapply – it will be extended.)
2. If you are an employer (or part of a group of employers) who pays more than \$6.5 million in Australian taxable wages and have been negatively affected (directly or indirectly) by coronavirus, you can apply for a:
 - deferral of payroll tax for the 2020 calendar year (If you have already applied for a deferral, you do not need not reapply – it will be extended.)
 - refund of your payroll tax for 2 months.

Market diversification and resilience grants – Equipment

Applications close Monday 20 April 2020

Equipment purchase grants of up to \$7,500 (excluding GST).

Applicants must contribute 25% of the total cost of the new equipment. The MDRG program will provide the remaining 75% of total costs. For example, if the total equipment cost is \$10,000 (excluding GST), the applicant will pay \$2,500 and the MDRG program will pay \$7,500 (excluding GST).

Examples of eligible equipment purchases include, but are not limited to:

- freezers



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- refrigerators
- vacuum packaging machines
- storage equipment

Further information: Email: MDRG@daf.qld.gov.au or phone: 13 25 23

Market diversification and resilience grants – Projects

Applications close Monday 20 April.

Project grants of up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) will be available to support project activities including, but not limited to:

- market evaluation studies
- market visits
- staff training
- new equipment such as refrigeration

Applicants must co-invest 50% of the total cost of their project activities or equipment purchases and should provide evidence of their contributions both in-kind (e.g. reasonable salary costs for key personnel, freight costs) and cash. Cash contributions must be at least 25% of total project costs.

Note: Applicants can only apply for 1 grant under the Market diversification and resilience grant program – either equipment (up to \$7500) or project (up to \$50,000).

Queensland COVID-19 jobs support loans

- You may be eligible for a loan to retain employees and maintain your operations.
- low interest loans of up to \$250,000 for carry on finance with an initial 12-month interest free period for businesses to retain staff. Details include:
 - No repayments or interest charged for the first year
 - Plus two years interest only
 - 2.5% fixed interest rate
 - 10-year term of loan
 - Open until 25 September 2020 or until funding is fully committed.
- Register your interest through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority or contact 1800 623 946.



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Australian Government Assistance

The Instant Asset Write-Off (IAWO) Threshold

The higher IAWO threshold provides cash flow benefits for businesses that will be able to immediately deduct purchases of eligible assets each costing less than \$150,000. The threshold applies on a per asset basis, so eligible businesses can immediately write-off multiple assets.

This proposal applies from 12 March 2020 until 30 June 2020, for new or second-hand assets first used or installed ready for use in this timeframe.

Backing Business Investment (BBI)

A time limited 15 month investment incentive to support business investment by accelerating depreciation deductions. This applies to eligible assets acquired from 12 March 2020 and first used or installed by 30 June 2021. Businesses will be able to deduct 50 per cent of the cost of an eligible asset on installation, with existing depreciation rules applying to the balance of the asset cost. The key features of the incentive are:

- benefit — deduction of 50 per cent of the cost of an eligible asset on installation, with existing depreciation rules applying to the balance of the asset's cost
- eligible businesses — businesses with aggregated turnover below \$500 million
- eligible assets — new assets that can be depreciated under Division 40 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (i.e. plant, equipment and specified intangible assets, such as patents) acquired after announcement and first used or installed by 30 June 2021. Does not apply to second-hand Division 40 assets, or buildings and other capital works depreciable under Division 43

Boosting cash flow for employers

Will provide tax-free cash flow boosts of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 to eligible businesses, delivered through credits in the activity statement system, when eligible businesses lodge their activity statements. The payment will provide cash flow support to businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million that employ staff. The payment will be tax free.

Eligibility will generally be based on prior year turnover.

- The payment will be delivered by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as a credit in the activity statement system from 28 April 2020 upon businesses lodging eligible upcoming activity statements.
- Eligible businesses that withhold tax on their employees' salary and wages will receive a credit equal to 100% of the amount withheld, up to a maximum of \$50,000.
- If you lodge quarterly business activity statements you will receive 50% of your total initial cash flow boosts for each activity statement. If you lodge monthly business activity



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statements you will receive 25% of your total initial cash flow boosts for each activity statement.

- **NB:** All cash flow boosts are tax free (non-assessable non-exempt income) and are not required to be paid back when your cash flow improves.

SME Guarantee scheme

The Government will provide a guarantee of 50% to small and medium enterprise (SME) lenders for new unsecured loans to be used for working capital. The fine print is:

- turnover of up to \$50 million
- Maximum total size of loans of \$250,000 per borrower.
- The loans will be up to 3 years, with an initial 6 month repayment holiday.
- The loans will be in the form of unsecured finance, meaning that borrowers will not have to provide an asset as security for the loan.

Supporting apprentices and trainees

If you employ an apprentice or trainee you may be eligible for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of their wage paid from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020. You can register for the subsidy from early April 2020.

The Government is supporting small business to retain their apprentices and trainees. Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage paid during the 9 months from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.

Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000, per eligible apprentice or trainee (\$7,000 per quarter).

Income Support Payments

A temporary fortnightly \$550 coronavirus supplement from 27 April 2020 if you're getting an eligible payment (such as farm household assistance), expanded eligibility for some payments to make them easier to claim and a crisis payment if you need to self-isolate, are in severe financial hardship and you can get an income support payment.