



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What types of grants are available under the program?

**Audit Grants** provide a subsidy to assist farmers to engage a qualified professional to review their farm energy use, infrastructure and systems and identify savings strategies. This may include advice on pumping and efficient irrigation systems, general farm operations, solar, domestic usage, and farm machinery and equipment.

**Capital Infrastructure Grants** provide a subsidy to assist eligible Tasmanian Farm Businesses to purchase new energy-saving or energy-efficient capital infrastructure to support improved or optimised on-farm energy efficiency, as recommend by an Energy and/or Irrigation Audit prepared by a suitably qualified professional. This may include, for example, irrigation pumps, lighting, insulation, ventilation infrastructure, solar panels, solar powered battery storage, or heating or cooling infrastructure.

### 2. Is an audit required before I can apply for Capital Infrastructure Grant funding?

Applicants will need to provide evidence of the need for the purchase of new on-farm infrastructure, and the manner in which it will provide energy savings or is energy-efficient. This must take the form of recommendations or advice in an Energy and/or Irrigation Audit as defined in the program guidelines and prepared by a suitably qualified professional. However, the audit itself does not need to have been funded under this program.

### 3. What is the 'scope of work'?

A scope of work is the list of tasks or activities that the professional will undertake as part of the energy/irrigation audit project.

The scope of work for an Energy Audit will depend upon the level and type of auditing required and the individual circumstances of the farm business. It could include on-site inspection, collection (and/or measurement) and assessment of current energy use, establishment of energy use performance indicators, assessment of current energy tariffs and recommended actions to reduce energy use. For more details on energy audits see: Your quick reference guide to energy auditing.

For an Irrigation Audit, the scope of work could include an overview of an irrigation system, assessment of adequacy and appropriateness of flows, pressures and current energy usage, a review of the system design to determine if the design is efficient, and recommendations as to improvements that may be made to provide energy savings.

### 4. Is my processing or agri-tourism business eligible for grant assistance under the program?

Businesses that only undertake processing or agri-tourism activities, for example, and are not classed as a primary producer by the Australian Tax Office, are not eligible under the program guidelines. However, eligible Tasmanian farm businesses can apply for program assistance if their processing or agri-tourism facilities are part of on-farm business operations (and operate under the same ABN).

### 5. Is it possible to apply for grant assistance more than once?

You can apply to each type of grant under the program once only over the three-year period 2018/19 to 2020/21. The maximum total grant assistance (Audit Grant plus Capital Infrastructure Grant) that can be provided over the three-year period is \$20 000 per applicant.

### 6. Is fuel considered part of the on-farm energy costs and therefore part of the scope of work?

Vehicle fuel costs (such as diesel, petrol, and LPG) cannot be included within the scope of work under the program guidelines. However, fuel use where it relates to equipment such as irrigation pumps and generators can be included provided it will lead to energy savings for the farm business.

### 7. Is agronomic advice (as part of an irrigation audit) considered to be eligible expenditure under the program?

No, agronomic assessments, analysis and advice (such as soil analysis, use of herbicides or pesticides, fertilisation, or crop water requirements) are not eligible expenditures under this program. However, an irrigation audit can include review and advice on reducing energy use through, for example, irrigation scheduling; irrigation infrastructure maintenance; and potential implementation of new or updated infrastructure which may provide energy savings.

## 8. What types of renewable energy could be considered as part of an energy audit?

Energy audits can consider a range of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, on farm hydropower, biomass and biofuels.

## 9. How long do I have to get my application in?

The program has an annual financial year allocation for three years (2018/19 – 2020/21) and the program will be closed if the allocation for any financial year is fully exhausted. Applications can be submitted at any time until funds have been exhausted.

## 10. Can I claim the cost of hiring someone to write/complete my application?

No, the subsidy can only be used for eligible expenditure for an Audit Grant or a Capital Infrastructure Grant.

## 11. Can I claim the cost audits already done or already underway?

No, the subsidy is only for audit activities following approval under the evaluation process.

## 12. Can I claim the cost of energy saving infrastructure that I have already purchased?

No, Capital Infrastructure Grant funding cannot be applied to purchases made prior to grant approval. In-kind expenses or contributions; purchase of any infrastructure that is also funded through any other government funding program; and temporary solutions, such as equipment hire are also ineligible.