

# Australian Capital Territory

## PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This bilateral schedule to the Project Agreement for an On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The Schedule has been developed in accordance with clause 11 of the Agreement.

## PART 2: FORMALITIES

2. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and expire on 30 June 2021 or on completion of the project, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones.

## PART 3: DELIVERY OF THE ON-FARM EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE SCHEME IN THE ACT

3. Under this Schedule, the ACT agrees to deliver a rebate scheme, funded by the Commonwealth of up to \$2.3 million over the life of the agreement, to drought affected primary producers and horticulture farmers in the ACT over 2018-19 to 2020-21.
4. In providing rebates to primary producers and horticulture farmers, the ACT must be satisfied that the rebate recipient has demonstrated that they are from the grazing or horticulture industries and drought affected.
5. Drought affected will be defined in ACT program guidelines for the rebate scheme, to be published in early 2019.

## PART 4: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

6. The Commonwealth will provide a maximum estimated financial contribution of \$2,300,000 to the ACT. All payments are exclusive of GST.
7. The estimated financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1. Estimated financial contributions**

<b>\$</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>760,000</b>	<b>780,000</b>	<b>760,000</b>	<b>\$2,300,000</b>
Less estimated National Partnership Payments	760,000	780,000	760,000	\$2,300,000
Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0	0	0	0

## PART 5: PROJECT MILESTONES, REPORTING AND PAYMENTS

8. Table 2 summarises the milestones for the project, their relationship to the outputs, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments to be made. The Commonwealth will make payments subject to the ACT demonstrating that the relevant milestone has been met.

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestone	Report due	Payment
<p><b><u>Year 1, 2018-19</u></b> New infrastructure to water livestock for drought affected farm businesses</p>	<p><i>Milestone 1</i> Establishment of administration arrangements for the delivery of an On-farm emergency water infrastructure rebate scheme in accordance with Part 3 of this schedule</p>	14 January 2019	\$200,000
	<p><i>Milestone 2</i> Payments made to eligible primary producers consistent with this agreement for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 April 2019</p>	1 May 2019	Value of rebates paid to 30 April 2019, up to \$560,000
<p><b><u>Year 2, 2019-20</u></b> New infrastructure to water livestock and permanent plantings for drought affected farm businesses</p>	<p><i>Milestone 3</i> Payments made to eligible primary producers and horticulture farmers consistent with this agreement for the period 1 May 2019 to 30 October 2019.</p>	31 October 2019	Value of rebates paid from 1 May 2019 to 30 Oct 2019 up to \$780,000
	<p><i>Milestone 4</i> Payments made to eligible primary producers and horticulture farmers consistent with this agreement for the period 31 October 2019 to 30 April 2020.</p>	1 May 2020	Value of rebates paid from 31 October 2019 to 30 April 2020 up to \$780,000, less payments already provided to ACT for the rebate scheme in 2019-20



Output	Performance milestone	Report due	Payment
<p><u>Year 3, 2020-21</u>            New infrastructure to water livestock and permanent plantings for drought affected farm businesses</p>	<p><i>Milestone 5</i>            Payments made to eligible primary producers and horticulture farmers consistent with this agreement for the period 1 May 2020 to 30 October 2020.</p> <p><i>Milestone 6</i>            Payments made to eligible primary producers and horticulture farmers consistent with this agreement for the period 31 October 2020 to 30 January 2021</p>	<p>31 October 2020</p> <p>31 January 2021</p>	<p>Value of rebates paid from 1 May 2020 to 30 October 2020 up to \$760,000</p> <p>Value of rebates paid from 31 October 2020 to 30 April 2021 up to \$760,000, less payments already provided to the ACT for the rebate scheme in 2020-21</p>

9. The State will provide performance reports in accordance with Table 2 during the operation of the Agreement. Each performance report is to contain a description of:
  - a. total rebate applications received
  - b. rebate applications processed
  - c. total funding disbursed
  - d. activities funded
  - e. location of activities
  - f. expected rebate applications over the next milestone period
  - g. other parameters as agreed between the Commonwealth and the ACT.
10. In addition to performance reports, the ACT will provide quarterly status reports or as requested over the life of the agreement.
11. Status reports will include data on rebate applications received, processed and total funding disbursed and total funding per eligible activity.

PART 6: SIGN OFF

12. The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature  Date 20/9/12  
[By ACT Minister]

   
Signature Date  
[By Commonwealth Minister]



**Shane Rattenbury MLA**

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

21/32281

The Hon Keith Pitt MP

Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia

[Minister.Pitt@industry.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Pitt@industry.gov.au)

Dear Mr Pitt

*Keith*

I am writing to update you on the administration of the On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (OFEWIR) Scheme in the ACT and to request a change to the ACT Government's Bilateral Schedule with the Australian Government.

The On-Farm Emergency Water Rebate Scheme has been very well received by our ACT farmers with \$136,262 paid as rebates to thirty ACT rural landholders since the program commenced in the ACT in 2018.

ACT rural landholders have matched OFEWIR Scheme rebates with their own expenditure of more than \$408,000 for eligible infrastructure including tanks, pumps, bores and other works on their farms since the scheme commenced.

The ACT Government understood this scheme was to finish in June 2021, and that rebate application could continue to be received and assessed under the OFEWIR Scheme until the end of this financial year. We now understand that, based on advice from the Australian Government, under Milestone 6 of the 2019 ACT Bilateral Schedule, the scheme closed for applications on 31 January 2021.

I am writing to you to seek an extension to Milestone 6 in our Bilateral Agreement in order that applications can be received and processed by the ACT Government up until 10 June 2021.

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601



+61 2 6205 0005



[rattenbury@act.gov.au](mailto:rattenbury@act.gov.au)



[@ShaneRattenbury](https://twitter.com/ShaneRattenbury)



[shanerattenburymla](https://www.facebook.com/shanerattenburymla)



[shanerattenbury](https://www.instagram.com/shanerattenbury)

We are seeking this extension to Milestone 6 for the following reasons:

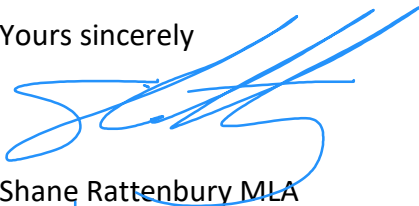
- The ACT has an underspend under the Scheme. The Australian Government's financial contribution to the scheme in the ACT, 2018-2021 was \$2.3million. As noted above, we have only spent \$136,262.15 of this amount. We anticipate that by June 2021 we could have received an additional \$15,000-\$50,000 in rebate applications.
- In communications with ACT rural landholders, we have advertised the closing date for the current scheme as the end of this financial year. Based on this advice, a number of landholders have made decisions around investments in infrastructure that are eligible under the scheme, with a view to applying for a rebate under the scheme towards the end of this financial year once the works have been installed and paid for.

The financial support provided by the Australian Government under this scheme has helped support ACT landholders to make significant investments in farm infrastructure aimed at managing dry conditions, addressing animal welfare issues and improving their long-term drought resilience.

I request an extension of Milestone 6 date until 10 June 2021 in order that more of our rural landholders can be beneficiaries of this very worthwhile scheme.

If this approval is forthcoming, officers in my Directorate will ensure that all ACT rural landholders are made aware of changes to the scheme. Geoffrey Rutledge, within my directorate, 02 6207 5001 will provide any further support required.

Yours sincerely



Shane Rattenbury MLA

12/5/21





**The Hon Keith Pitt MP**

**Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia**

Ref: MC21-004427

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction  
Minister for Gaming  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

[rattenbury@act.gov.au](mailto:rattenbury@act.gov.au)

Dear Attorney-General

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 May 2021 seeking a variation to the period to which Milestone 6 applies under the Schedule to the Federation Funding Agreement –Environment, for the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

I am pleased to advise that I have agreed to your request to vary the Milestone 6 period from 31 October 2020 – 30 January 2021 to 31 October 2020 – 10 June 2021. Please note that the funding agreement continues in full force and effect, as amended by this exchange of letters.

I urge you to ensure delivery of Milestone 6 on or before 14 June 2021 to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to ensure consideration of the milestone and the respective payment to be made before 30 June 2021.

The rebate scheme has been a hugely popular program that's made a real difference for thousands of Australian farmers dealing with the devastating challenges of drought. It has helped thousands of farmers deliver practical support to complete critical on-farm water infrastructure projects in order to maintain a more reliable water supply into the future.

On 21 April 2021, I announced the extension of the scheme to 30 June 2022. I would appreciate you considering the ACT's further involvement in the scheme up until June 2022 as other states have now signed up to the extended scheme to ensure farmers are able to put in place drought resilience measures to manage through future droughts.

Thank you again for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Pitt'.

Keith Pitt

31/5/2021