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FEDERAL MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS**

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JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT: Additional support for small businesses hit by Western Queensland flood disaster

- **Eligible small businesses impacted by the 2025 Western Queensland surface trough can now access additional financial assistance.**
- **The Small Business Recovery Assistance Grant will provide up to \$15,000 to help offset significant trading disruptions.**
- **Financial assistance allocated to support eligible small businesses across eight local government areas.**

Small businesses across Western Queensland impacted by the 2025 Western Queensland surface trough can now access additional financial assistance through a new grants program jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

The Small Business Recovery Assistance Grant will provide up to \$15,000 to eligible small businesses that experienced significant trading disruptions due to the severe weather event that occurred between 21 March and 19 May 2025.

The grant is targeted at small businesses that either ceased trading or suffered a revenue loss of 60 per cent or more for at least two consecutive weeks as a direct result of the disaster.

Eligible businesses must be located in one of eight declared disaster-affected Local Government Areas, including Barcoo, Boulia, Bulloo, Diamantina, Longreach, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie and Winton.

Grant applications will be assessed against established criteria, with applicants needing to demonstrate the financial impact of the disaster, intent to continue operating, and how the funds will contribute to business and community recovery.

Federal Minister for Emergency Management Kristy McBain said the Australian and Queensland Governments have partnered to support small businesses impacted by this year's severe weather event.

"We know that small businesses are the lifeblood of regional communities and play such an important role to deliver goods, services and employment opportunities," Minister McBain said.

"That's why both levels of government are working together through this new grants program to help them recover from some of the losses they experienced due to the significant rainfall and flooding we saw earlier this year.

"This assistance goes beyond the support we activated in the immediate recovery phase, recognising that the disaster resulted in more than just physical damage to the business premises, and is designed to be used for some of the things that can help them recover for the long-term."

Queensland Minister for Small and Family Business Steve Minnikin said that the additional financial assistance is critical for helping regional small businesses recover swiftly.

"Small businesses are the heart of our regional communities, they provide essential services and local employment. Natural disasters don't just damage premises – they can impact the very survival of these enterprises," Minister Minnikin said.

"This assistance acknowledges the genuine hardships these businesses are experiencing and provides support for critical expenses like payroll, rent payments and marketing expenses.

"We want to make sure owners can concentrate on restoring operations and securing their workforce for the future.

"This program has been designed to be flexible and focused on practical recovery outcomes."

The Small Business Recovery Assistance Grant is in addition to previously activated financial supports including Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants of up to \$50,000 and Disaster Assistance Loans up to \$250,000.

To apply, or find out more information, visit www.business.qld.gov.au.

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