Small Businesses on Embedded Networks -

Rebates for 2024-25

Program Guidelines





Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) Department of State Growth

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1. Aim

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments recognise that there are a significant number of households and businesses impacted by cost-of-living pressures in Tasmania. These tiers of government committed to provide funding support to help ease cost of living pressures.

Supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend 2024-25 – State Government

The Supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend program provides a one-time payment of \$300 for small businesses who get their supply of electricity through an embedded network in Tasmania rather than via an authorised retailer (like Aurora Energy or 1st Energy).

Energy Bill Relief Extension 2024-25 – Australian Government

To ease cost of living and electricity cost pressures in 2024-25, the Australian Government is providing \$325 for a small business connection on embedded network under its *Energy Bill Relief Extension 2024-25*.

Examples of businesses on embedded networks could be:

- shops in a shopping centre
- businesses operating within airports
- tenants in managed office accommodation
- leaseholders at a business estate/industrial parks.

Because the eligibility criteria for the Supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend and the Energy Bill Relief Extension 2024-25 are the same, eligible small business customers will only have to make a single application in order to receive both State and Australian Government payments.

The program(s) will be administered by the Department of State Growth on behalf of the Crown in Right of Tasmania. State Growth may get in touch with applicants regarding future related programs.

Please check the **Business Tasmania** website for any update on the program.

The program is open for applications from 2 pm on 19 June 2024 and closes at 2 pm on 31 October 2024. Applications will be assessed in order of receipt using the eligibility criteria.

2. Funding available

The program provides a fixed, one-time combined payment of \$625 for eligible small businesses.

These guidelines detail the application process for small businesses on embedded networks.

For information on the residential households grants of \$550, please refer to ReCFIT.

3. Eligibility

Applicants must meet **all** eligibility criteria as outlined below:

1. Be a small business electricity customer who consumes less than 150MWh per year.

2. Be able to demonstrate that you are on a metered supply of electricity in an embedded network*.

To satisfy this requirement, you must provide a copy of a recent invoice from your embedded network operator indicating a metered electricity supply at your principal place of business.

Information contained within this invoice should include:

- Invoice date, unique invoice number; and the business name and ABN of the embedded network operator (the invoice issuer).
- Your business name and business address as the entity connected to the embedded network.
- Power consumption for a specified billing period, and unit cost of the electricity supply and total invoice amount.
- 3. Be able to demonstrate that the location where the electricity is being consumed on the embedded network is your principal place of business**.

To satisfy this requirement, you must provide a copy of your current lease agreement, or suitable documentation confirming ownership, which shows business name and address matching the details provided in your application.

4. Hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN) – this ABN must be for the applicant business.

Applicants must certify that they meet the eligibility criteria. Providing false or misleading information may result in the grant being repayable on demand and jeopardise any current and future applications for support.

You may be asked to provide and/or clarify information or documentation to support your eligibility claims, either as part of the application process, or after you have submitted your application.

*An embedded network arrangement exists if a customer pays for their electricity via their landlord or other ownership arrangement through an individually metered connection, rather than purchase electricity directly from an authorised electricity retailer (like Aurora Energy or 1st Energy)

** Only one application per small business (ABN) on an embedded network is allowed under this program.

The information you provide may be subject to authenticity checks using third party software.

3.1 Ineligible applicants

- 1. Residential households. For information on the residential households grants of \$250, please refer to <u>ReCFIT</u>.
- 2. Have received any other small business payment under the Supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend Program.
- 3. Small businesses that directly receive their electricity supply and are invoiced through an authorised retailer (such as Aurora Energy or 1st Energy).
- 4. Any public company as defined in the Corporations Act 2001.
- 5. Any government body, government agency and government business enterprises.

6. Any business that is under external administration or bankruptcy.

4. Timeframes

No applications will be accepted after the closing date.

Description	Date/time
Program opens	2pm, 19 June 2024
Program closes	2pm, 31 October 2024
Application assessment	In order of receipt of application
Application approvals	In order of assessment
Application notification	Within 1 month. Failure to provide the required information may impact assessment and notification timeframes.
Payment to successful applicants	Following approval

5. Contact details

For queries about the program, contact:

- Business Tasmania
- <u>ask@business.tas.gov.au</u>
- 1800 440 026 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm)

6. How to apply

Applications should be submitted using SmartyGrants.

For assistance with using SmartyGrants, please see the applicant help guide.

Contact Business Tasmania to discuss any issue preventing you from using SmartyGrants to submit your application.

- 1. **Prepare:** Read the program guidelines and the frequently asked questions (FAQs) before starting your application.
- 2. Start: The application form is available at https://stategrowthtas.smartygrants.com.au/SREDbiz
- 3. **Confirm:** Ensure all information and supporting documentation is accurate and attached.
- 4. **Submit:** You will receive an email notification after you submit your application. Keep this notification as confirmation of your submission.
- 5. **Assessment:** Applications will be assessed by a departmental assessment team or a third party contracted by the Department.

6. **Notification:** Applicants will be advised via email of the outcome of their application once assessed.

During the assessment process State Growth may require further information to support or clarify an application. This information must be provided by the applicant within seven (7) calendar days, unless otherwise advised. Failure to provide the information within a reasonable timeframe may result in delays.

7. Grant funding agreement

If you are successful, these guidelines and your application will form the funding agreement. There will be no separate funding agreement.

8. Appealing a decision

If your application is unsuccessful, you may appeal the decision.

The appeals process ensures that all applicants have been treated fairly.

We will consider appeals that relate to administrative process issues in grants management.

All requests must be in writing and addressed to the Director Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania, Department of State Growth. Your request must be received within 28 days from the date of State Growth notifying you of the decision about your application.

For further information about the appeal process, contact Business Tasmania by emailing ask@business.tas.gov.au or phoning 1800 440 026.

9. Grant Payments

If your application is successful, the grant payment will be made to the bank details provided by you in your application.

The bank account must be in business name and must match your application. You will be asked to provide a copy of your bank statement or a letter from your bank as confirmation.

Providing incorrect bank account details may result in significant delays or not receiving your grant payment. We cannot guarantee the recovery of funds paid to an incorrect bank account.

You will be required to return some or all the funds if we find that the information provided to us is false or misleading.

10. Taxation and financial implications

No Goods and Services Tax (GST) will apply to this grant.

The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the ATO. While grants are typically treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the recipient's particular circumstances.

Applicants may wish to seek independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving the grant under the program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), prior to submitting an application.

11. Acquittal

For this program, information submitted in your application will also meet acquittal requirements.

12. Publicity of grant assistance

State Growth is accountable for its spending of public funds, including providing grants. As part of the accountability process, State Growth may publicise, without further notice, information about the grants provided, including the level of financial assistance, the identity of the recipient, and the purpose of the financial assistance.

If you have received a grant from State Growth:

- despite any confidentiality or intellectual property right subsisting in the grant funding agreement or deed, a party may publish all or any part of the grant funding agreement or deed without reference to another party, and you consent to the disclosure of your name in this context.
- all obligations under the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 (Tas) still apply.

13. True and accurate information

You must take care to provide true and accurate information. Any information that is found to be false or misleading may result in action being taken and grant funds, if already provided, may be required to be repaid to State Growth.

14. Right to information

Information provided to State Growth may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009.*

15. Information collection and usage

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. This information may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates, on request to State Growth.

State Growth may use and disclose the information you provide for the purposes of discharging its functions under the Program Guidelines and otherwise for the purposes of the program and related uses. State Growth may also use information received in applications and during the delivery of the project for reporting purposes.

16. Disclaimer

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains.

The Crown in Right of Tasmania accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise from anything contained in or omitted from or that may arise from the use of this document, and any person relying on this document and the information it contains does so at their own risk absolutely.

The Crown in Right of Tasmania does not accept liability or responsibility for any loss incurred by an applicant that are in any way related to the program.



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