



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

Senator the Hon. Jonno Duniam
Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries
Assistant Minister for Industry Development

Monday 6th December 2021

Regional Investment Corporation loans to support new and bushfire-damaged forestry plantations

- **The Regional Investment Corporation’s Plantation Loan program launches today.**
- **Eligible businesses can obtain a concessional loan through the RIC up to the value of \$2.5 million to establish new plantations or replant 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfire damaged plantations.**
- **The launch of the Plantation Loans delivers a 2019 Election Commitment.**

A new loan program will support the development of new and bushfire-damaged forestry plantations to help secure our future wood supply.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, David Littleproud said the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) loans will support growth in plantations, delivering benefits for rural and regional communities and the economy.

“Many regional communities are reliant on forestry. We also know the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires caused significant losses for some industries and communities,” Minister Littleproud said.

“We want to help these hardworking Aussies, so through this initiative eligible businesses can obtain a concessional loan to the value of \$2.5 million to establish new plantations or replant bushfire-damaged plantations.

“Farmers may also use the loans to support plantation development on their land to diversify their income.”

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Jonno Duniam said the government is committed to growing the plantation estate and supporting forestry jobs.

“The sector has faced challenges recently, but we’re working with businesses and states and territories to build a strong and sustainable future for Australia’s forest industries,” Assistant Minister Duniam said.

“The wood supplied from these plantations will also support the construction industry in the years ahead.”

Minister Littleproud said the government will continue to work with rural and regional communities to provide practical help to achieve economic growth and productivity.

“Through measures such as these, we are laying the foundation to grow Australia’s agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries to \$100 billion by 2030,” Minister Littleproud said.

For more information and how to apply, visit [here](#) or call 1800 875 675.

Fast Facts:

- **As part of the 2021-22 Budget, the government committed \$37.5 million of existing RIC loan funding to the program in 2021-22. The (RIC) were also provided with additional funding of \$0.8 million in 2021-22 administer the loans.**
- **This Plantation Loan also complements other loan products delivered through the RIC to support new entrants and existing businesses in regional Australia, such as AgriStarter Loans and Farm Investment Loans.**
- **The measure supports the Government's Ag2030 goal to set the foundations to grow Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries to \$100 billion by 2030.**

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RIC briefing note

RIC OVERVIEW

The Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) provides low interest federal government to farmers and farm-related small businesses and for plantations.

RIC loans can be used to invest, prepare for, manage or recover from drought, for new farms and succession planning, and develop new or replant bushfire-damaged plantations.

The RIC has a mandate to provide low-cost finance to farm businesses that are both in financial need of assistance and viable over the long term to repay the loan.

For more on our customers and innovative loan uses see ric.gov.au/case-studies.

PLANTATION LOAN LAUNCHED

The RIC's new Plantation Loan launched on Monday 6 December 2021 and is now open for applications.

The Plantation Loan can be used by farmers or commercial growers to develop new plantations or replant bushfire-damaged plantations as a result of the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires. The loan can also be used to purchase land for new plantations.

Up to \$2.5 million is available over a 20-year loan term with years 1 – 13 interest-only followed by years 14 – 20 principal and interest. The current variable interest rate is 1.89% and at least 50% of the total debt must remain with a customer's commercial lender.

To find out more information about the Plantation Loan please see the [loan guidelines on our website](#) along with frequently asked questions about the loan. We encourage potential applicants to complete an [online expression of interest](#) and the RIC team will contact you to discuss the details.

RIC FAST FACTS

All figures as at 31 October 2021.



We have approved **more than 115** total loans valued at **over \$127 million** so far this financial year



We have approved **more than 2830** total loans valued at **over \$3.07 billion** since inception in July 2018

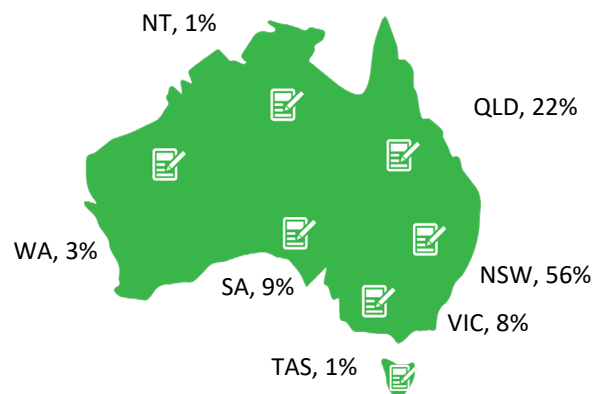


We approved **more than 20** total loans valued at **over \$23 million** for the month of October 2021



The current median time to settlement for is **around 39 RIC handling days** (excluding time spent with customers and banks)

RIC LOAN APPROVALS BY STATE*



- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$1.72 billion** in NSW
- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$665 million** in QLD
- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$257 million** in VIC
- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$265 million** in SA
- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$107 million** in WA
- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$34 million** in TAS
- ↑ Loans valued at over **\$20 million** in the NT

*Average loan size around \$1 million