



Smart Farming Partnerships Round 2

1. What is the closing time and date for applications?

The Application Form must be submitted by **11.00pm AEST on Friday, 17 May 2019**. It is recommended that you submit your application **well before the closing time and date**.

2. If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?

No, extensions will not be given. You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates and times.

The Community Grants Hub will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

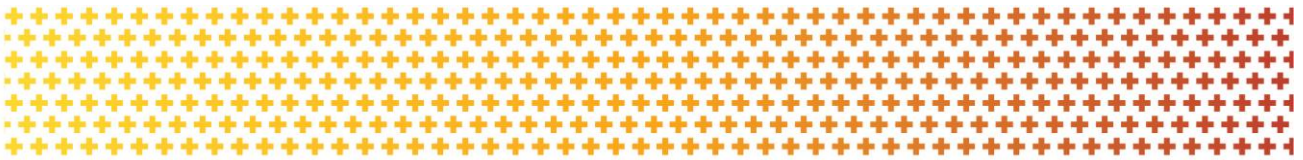
Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

How to lodge a late application

Applicants seeking to submit a late application will be required to submit a late application request to the Community Grants Hub Hotline via support@communitygrants.gov.au.

The request should include a detailed explanation of the circumstances that prevented the application being submitted prior to the closing time. Where appropriate, supporting evidence can be provided to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances.

Written requests to lodge a late application will only be accepted within three days after the grant opportunity has closed.



The Delegate or their appointed representative^[1] will determine whether a late application will be accepted. The decision of the delegate will be final and not be subject to a review or appeals process.

Once the outcome is determined, the Community Grants Hub will advise the applicant if their request is accepted or declined.

3. How can I submit the Application Form?

The form is an online Application Form that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide application forms or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or through Australia Post unless otherwise stated in the grant opportunity documents.

4. Can an applicant make changes to the application after it has been submitted?

You cannot change your application after it has been submitted.

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted, you should contact the Community Grants Hub by phone on 1800 020 283 or by email at support@communitygrants.gov.au straight away. The Community Grants Hub may ask you for more information, as long as it does not change the substance of your application. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from applicants to correct applications after the closing time.

5. How do I know that my application has been received?

When you successfully submit your application you will receive an acknowledgement email, so that you know that your submission has been received. This may take a few moments, depending on your internet connection. Please wait for the acknowledgement email before closing the application form.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement email you should contact the grants Hub and check if it went through OK, or if you need to do anything further.

^[1] This may be the Hub delegate or nominated staff member of the client agency at the EL2 level or above.



6. Are not for profit organisations eligible to apply?

Yes, not for profit organisations are eligible to apply as long as they are legal entities. Please refer to item 3.1 of the guidelines for further information about who is eligible to apply for a grant.

7. How much funding is available for this Program?

Smart Farming Partnerships is offering up to \$60 million over six years (2017–18 to 2022–23) through two rounds (the first round was held in 2017–18 with the second now open). This second round is expected to contribute up to **\$32.6** million to support projects. Funding between \$250,000 to \$4 million (GST exclusive) per grant is available.

8. What attachments do I need to include in my application?

Only attach the documents you have been asked to include.

You **must** attach a project budget in your application. The budget **must** be completed in the template provided. If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust, a signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations must also be provided.

There are instructions in the application form to help you attach these.

Please note: There is a 2mb limit for each attachment.

9. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

10. What is a partnership? What is a consortium?

A Smart Farming Partnership is two or more individuals or organisations who are working together to combine their capabilities to develop and deliver a Partnerships project. All Partnerships involve a consortium of partners with one of the partners appointed by the consortium as the applicant. The applicant for a Partnerships grant submits a grant application on behalf of the Partnership consortium and must identify all other consortium partners in the application. If successful, the applicant will enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth and will be responsible for the grant. While there are restrictions (see item 3.1 of the guidelines) on who is eligible to apply on behalf of a consortium for a Smart Farming Partnership grant, these restrictions do not



constrain membership of a consortium. However, a Partnerships consortium must include one or more 'knowledge partners' from one of four groups of organisations (see item 3.2 of the guidelines).

11. Would the Department prefer a consortium (joint) arrangement?

All Smart Farming Partnerships involve a Partnership consortium as described in items 1.5 and 3.2 of the guidelines.

12. Is there a limit to the number of applications that applicants can submit?

No. There is no limit to the number of applications that an applicant can submit before the closing date for applications. Applicants are asked to complete a new application form for each project that they submit. Applicants should keep a copy of each submitted application.

13. Is there scope for novel approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation?

Yes. Innovative approaches that develop and implement new methods are encouraged. These new methods must be supported by robust science and clear evidence. The Australian Government has obligations under international treaties to address climate change. Smart Farming Partnerships are intended to help Australia meet these obligations.

14. I have an idea for a project for the Smart Farming Partnerships. Can the department or the grants Hub provide me with advice about my planned activities whether they meet the grants objectives?

During the application process, neither the department nor the Hub can provide advice to potential applicants about specific project ideas. This includes making any comments about the merit of a project or any of the planned activities and whether they meet the grants objectives. This is to ensure that the process remains fair and impartial, not advantaging one applicant above another.



15. What are the contract conditions for this grant?

A copy of the terms and conditions for the grant agreement is included as part of the grant opportunity documents available on GrantConnect and Community Grants Hub websites.

16. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application in writing, at the end of the selection process. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

17. What Feedback will be available for this funding round?

General feedback summaries for open funding rounds will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all applicants with easy to access information about the assessment process and the main strengths and areas for improving future applications.

Individual feedback will be available upon written request. Please refer to item 9.1 of the guidelines.

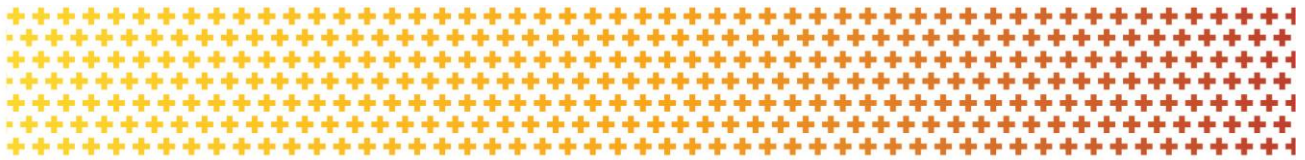
18. Can we still access the General Feedback from the first Smart Farming Partnerships funding round? Is it relevant to this round?

The General Feedback from round 1 can be accessed [here](#).

Although there have been some changes to the guidelines, this is highly relevant for all round 2 applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this document carefully.

19. How important is the integration of environmental and agricultural outcomes?

The National Landcare Program seeks both environmental and agricultural outcomes that collectively aim to protect and improve Australia's natural environment. This aligns with the purpose of the Natural Heritage Trust. This is why the National Landcare Program phase two is administered by the environment and agriculture departments who are working closely to insure that the dual outcomes are delivered.



20. How will Smart Farming Partnerships be administered?

Consistent with the whole-of-government change to centralised grants administration, the Department of Social Services will administer Smart Farming Partnerships grants. This includes managing the receipt of applications, conducting the assessment process, advising successful grantees, making all payments, undertaking milestone assessments, and completing project and program acquittal. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will be involved in the assessment of project proposals, the monitoring of project's progress and will maintain policy responsibility throughout the program.

21. If Smart Farming Partnerships is to be managed by Department of Social Services will there be an assessment panel?

Details concerning the assessment of grant applications are detailed in item 8.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

22. What is a co-contribution?

A co-contribution is the provision of cash or in-kind resources to the project by an applicant or other entities. All co-contributions are in addition to grant funding.

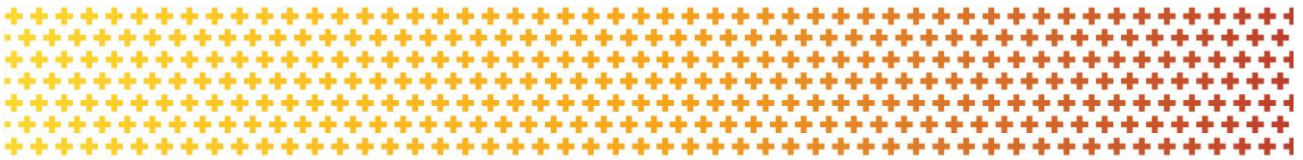
Cash and/or in-kind contributions must be included in the project budget. They are a key way to balance out any private gain that may arise from the project and is viewed very favourably during the assessment process as a boost to the value for money of the project.

23. What is the difference between a 'cash contribution' and an 'in-kind contribution'?

Collectively, cash and in-kind contributions are known as co-contributions.

Cash contributions: A cash contribution is the actual money that an individual, group or organisation provides to the project. Cash contributions should be able to be seen as entries into a bank account. This needs to be included as part of the project budget on the template.

In-kind contributions: In-kind contributions are goods, services, equipment loans or labour that others provide to the project. An in-kind contribution may include, for example, contributed 'time' for a project manager, availability of office space, trial land, equipment that would otherwise need to be hired. Applicants must substantiate the value of the in-kind contributions based on reasonable market value of the resources brought to the project. This will need to be included as part of the project budget on the template.



24. Is a co-contribution compulsory?

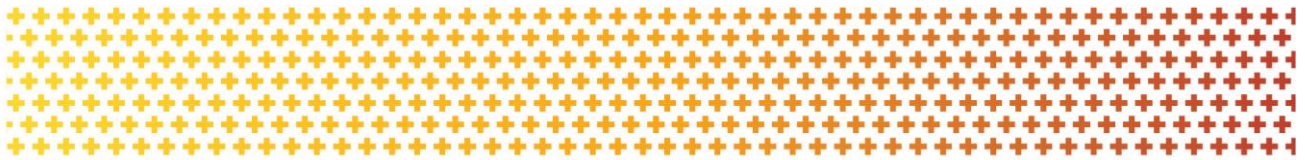
Activities conducted on private land are very likely to result in a private benefit for the land manager. The option to include a co-contribution to the project allows applicants to balance the private benefits of a project with a private contribution. To be eligible, all Smart Farming Projects must not provide a private benefit that is disproportionately greater than the amount of any private contribution to the project. Please refer to item 4.3 of the guidelines. Co-contributions must be identified in the project budget to be attached to the application.

25. What are public / private benefits and how will they be assessed?

Government funding is public money. Its distribution is guided by a set of principles for public and private benefit. The interaction between public and private benefits will vary between projects. Assessments will be made on a case-by-case basis taking into account:

- the public benefit, the current market reward and whether the outcomes would not occur without government intervention
- government funding being commensurate with the expected public or broader community benefit derived
- the level of private investment (cash and/or in kind) being appropriate for the level of private benefit received
- grant payments should only be considered where the public benefit is high
- extension activities including education, communication, demonstration should be used where there is a market failure and both public and private net benefits are expected
- alignment of information content, transfer and extension with similar activities by industry and other jurisdictions to make the most efficient use of resources.

All Smart Farming Partnerships must achieve a public benefit that would not occur without the grant and that is at-least proportional to the amount of the grant, and must not provide a private benefit that is disproportionately greater than the amount of any private contribution to the project.



26. How long will it take for applications to be assessed?

Applications will be assessed in a timely manner to enable successful projects to start within the 2019-20 financial year. Please refer to Table 1 in item 7.2 of the guidelines. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications.

27. What are the tax implications of receiving a grant?

If you receive a grant, you should consider speaking to a tax advisor about the effect of receiving a grant before you enter into a grant agreement. You can also visit the Australian Taxation Office website at www.ato.gov.au for more information.

28. When can I start my project?

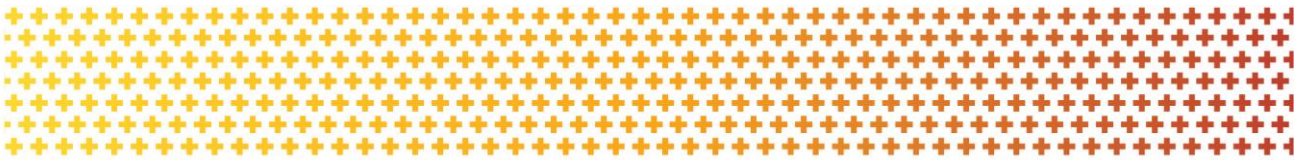
A recipient must not commence work on their project before a funding agreement is executed with the Department. Payment will not be backdated for activities that commenced before the execution of the funding agreement, and no payments will be made unless a funding agreement has been executed. Please refer to item 7.2 of the guidelines for application process timing.

29. Can all regional, regional/catchment natural resource management bodies, including those established by a state government, apply for the Smart Farming Partnerships grant?

Yes, all regional and regional/catchment natural resource management bodies, including those established by a state government are eligible to apply as long as they are legal entities. Please refer to item 3.1 of the guidelines for further information about who is eligible to apply for a grant.

30. Where should I go for further information?

Please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within five working days.



New questions and answers added 12 April

31. There is no specification in Round 1 or 2 regarding the grant funding ratio. Can you advise if combined partner contributions will need to reflect 50% of project costs, with grant funding requested for the other 50%? This is a usual funding structure, however we note the guidelines do not specifically refer to this ratio.

There is no set grant funding ratio between the grant funding request and total project cost for Smart Farming Partnerships round 2 (SFP2) applications. The assessment process will look at every application's value for money based the benefits generated by the project. Projects scoring well for value for money will be judged to have a high public benefit. Where there is also a private benefit as a result of the project, the total value of co-contributions will be compared to the quantum of the private benefit and to score well the private benefit is expected to be counterbalanced by the co-contributions (both cash and in kind). So, there is no ratio assessment. For example a project that does not have any private benefit may not have a co-contribution at all, and if the public benefit is deemed highly suitable it can still score highly for value for money.

32. Please provide clarification surrounding “Project suitability for Public Funding and value for money”

We will assess your application to determine the extent to which the project is suitable for public funding and the value for money of your project (refer to ‘Value for money’ definition below from the SFP2 Glossary). We will consider who will benefit from this project and the extent of the benefit likely to flow to each beneficiary. We will also consider who will contribute to the cost of the project and the extent of their contribution. We will consider whether the public benefits to be achieved by the project are additional to those that would otherwise be achieved and exceed the amount of the grant sought. We will also consider whether any private benefit to be achieved by your project exceeds the amount of any private contribution to the project

In providing a response to this criterion you must:

- Describe your budget for the project and the project activities, using the template provided.
- Explain how the grant amount requested is proportionate to the outcomes your project will achieve and the activities you will do.
- Describe the public benefits that will occur because of the project.
- What will be the benefit to the community from achieving your objective?
- What value will your project add that would not have occurred without the project?
- If the project will have private benefits, describe the benefits and the beneficiaries.



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- Who will gain a private benefit from your project? What are the private benefits that will flow to each beneficiary? Do the private benefits exceed any private contributions to the cost of the project?
 - Are any in-kind private contributions reasonable and well justified in the budget?

‘Value for money’: refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.

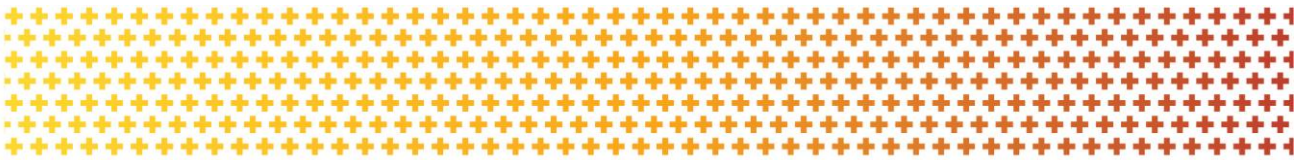
When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:

- the quality of the project proposal and activities;
- fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives;
- that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved
- the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

As a summary statement on this topic - outlined in the SFP2 guidelines - it is worth keeping in mind that Smart Farming Partnerships grants are funded by public money and are guided by a set of principles for public and private benefit. Suitable projects will be selected on the basis that they will deliver a public benefit that is in the national interest. Grants will only be made where the expected public benefits to be achieved are at least commensurate with the costs to the public and where those benefits would not occur without the grant.

However, as projects are commonly undertaken on private land (at least in part), some private benefit may also be derived. To ensure value for public money the anticipated private benefit of the project activities should be balanced by a cash or in kind co-contribution that exceeds the anticipated quantum of the private benefit.

The interaction between the eligible natural resources being protected or improved, the innovative tools, practices and methods being implemented, and the anticipated public and private benefits to be derived will vary between projects. Assessments will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the cost of the project, the expected public or broader community benefits and private benefits to be achieved as a result of your project, and whether the project outcomes would not occur without government intervention.



33. We note that in Round 1 it was communicated in the guidelines that cash contributions are treated more competitively than in-kind contributions. Can you please clarify if a partner must contribute cash, or if in-kind contributions from one of the consortium members will be acceptable?

In the selection criteria as part of the guidelines we have not differentiated between the comparative values of cash or in-kind contributions so you should assume we will assess applications based on the total value of co-contributions compared to the requested funding amount and public/private benefits generated by the project. All in kind co-contributions need to be justified in the budget tables.

34. Are Non-Corporate State or Territory Entities or Statutory Authorities eligible to apply?

Yes. There was a typographical error when the Grant Opportunity Guidelines were first published, in which non-corporate state or territory entities were listed as both eligible and ineligible. The addenda to the Grant Opportunities Guidelines removes this error, and confirms that these entities are eligible to apply.

All eligible applicants need to be able to enter into a legally binding funding agreement with the Commonwealth. If there is any doubt, applicants should consider obtaining legal advice.