



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Future Drought Fund: Natural Resource Management Drought Resilience Program - Grants

Questions and Answers

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

The application form(s) must be submitted by **11.00pm AEDT on 30 October 2020**. It is recommended that you submit your application(s) well before the closing time and date as **late applications will not be accepted**.

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

No. Late applications will not be accepted.

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

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub immediately on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information and will not accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing date and time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

Late applications will not be accepted.

4. What if the Community Grants Hub find there is an error or information missing from your application?

If the Community Grants Hub find an error or information that is missing in your application, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.



5. What if there is not enough room in the application form to describe my project proposal accurately?

The application form includes text limits of 6,000 characters (approximately 750 words) per criterion. The application form will not accept characters beyond this limit and therefore it is essential that criterion answers are clear and concise. Please note that spaces are included in the character limit.

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

When you submit your application you will receive an acknowledgement email indicating 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.

7. Are not for profit organisations eligible to apply?

Yes, not for profit organisations are eligible to apply.

Please refer to section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information about who is eligible to apply for a grant and to section 4.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information regarding additional eligibility requirements.

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

Up to five attachments are required. All applicants are required to submit:

- a proposed project budget (using the mandatory template available on [GrantConnect](#) and the [Community Grants Hub](#) website),
- a letter from your regional natural resource management body.

In addition, if you are applying as:

- a business or organisation, you must also attach evidence of support from your organisation's board, CEO or equivalent (if applicable)
- a Trustee on behalf of a Trust, you must also attach a copy of the Trust Deed and any subsequent variations
- a joint consortium (group) to deliver a project, you must also attach a signed letter of support from each of the consortia partners. Please refer to section 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines regarding joint (Consortia) applications.



Please refer to section 7.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information about attachments to the application. There are also instructions in the application form to help you.

Only attach the documents you have been asked to include. If the required documents are not attached, your application will not be eligible and will not be assessed. Documents that have not been asked for will not be considered in the assessment.

9. My attachments will not upload to the application form because they exceed the 2 megabyte size limit, what should I do?

Attachments larger than 2 megabytes cannot be accepted. You will need to reduce the size of the attachment before uploading.

10. How much funding is available for this grant opportunity?

A total of \$10 million is available for Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program – Grants. Applicants can apply for a grant between \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$200,000 (exclusive of GST) to undertake projects that contribute to improved drought resilience of agricultural landscapes.

Please refer to section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for grant funding details.

11. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible to apply you must be a legal entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN), have an account with an Australian financial institution and be capable of entering into a legally binding and enforceable grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Please refer to section 4.1 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

12. Can I apply for funding if I am receiving funding or have received funding for the same activity?

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment cannot provide grant funding if you are or have received funding from the Commonwealth or another source (such as state, territory or local government) to undertake the same activity.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

13. What is the purpose of the NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants?

The NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants will support organisations, farmer groups and individuals to undertake projects that contribute to improved drought resilience of agricultural landscapes. The program is focused on support for experimentation in NRM practices,



systems and approaches that go beyond current best practice. This aims to foster innovation and transformational change in the management of natural resources.

14. How do the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants differ from Smart Farms Small Grants?

The Future Drought Fund is focussed specifically on building economic, social and environmental resilience to future droughts.

The Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants goes beyond current best practice and encourages innovation, transformation, experimentation and safe fail (not business as usual).

The Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants supports experimentation which may be placed earlier along the innovation curve than those which are prioritised by Smart Farms Small Grants Round 4.

15. Can I apply for the same project from both the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants and Smart Farms Small Grants?

While you can apply for the same project/activities under the two programs, the programs are targeting different outcomes, and applications will be assessed in that context. Activities may complement or build on existing grants/applications, however you cannot be funded under both programs for the same activities. As part of your application, you are required to declare whether any proposed project activities are a part of an application you have made for funding under another government program.

16. Can my project replicate work that has occurred in another area/region but has not been tested in the region where my project will be located?

Yes, projects of a similar nature may be undertaken if they occur in a different area/region or industry and add value. However, activities that are reasonably considered to be the same as ones which are already underway, or activities that are so closely related that they could not be reasonably considered to be additional to those already underway or completed will not be considered.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

17. Can the grant money be used for capital expenditure, construction works or earthworks?

Yes. However, no more than 10 per cent of the grant value can be spent on capital expenditure or construction and no more than 25 per cent of the grant money can be spent on earthworks. The Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants is not intended to fund projects which have a greater focus on capital expenditure, construction or



earthwork activities. If your application budget exceeds 10 per cent for capital expenditure or construction, or 25 per cent for earthworks your application would be ineligible.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

18. What can the grant funding be used for and what can't it be used for?

Please refer to sections 5.1 and 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

19. Are research projects eligible for funding?

Yes, providing they are for new research, trials of methods that extend beyond existing best practice, and trialling of best available research that is yet to be implemented.

Research activities and trials of methods that are already well-established best practice for industries or regions will not be funded.

20. What is a consortium?

A consortium is two or more organisations who are working together to combine their capabilities when developing and delivering a grant activity.

A lead organisation must be an incorporated body which is able to enter into the grant agreement. If you submit a joint application, you must nominate a lead organisation for the application. The lead organisation for the project will, if your application is successful, sign the grant agreement, receive the funding and take legal responsibility for performing the activities and meeting the outcomes of the grant agreement.

21. Under the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants, is it better to submit a consortium bid?

Applicants will need to submit the best proposal that they can in order to meet the requirements of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and be competitive. It is up to the applicant to determine the best approach to deliver their project. However, forming partnerships with relevant organisations and individuals is encouraged where appropriate.

Individual and consortia/joint applications will be considered equally.

22. If I'm applying to lead a consortium, does my consortia application require a letter of support from each of the consortia members?

Yes, please refer to sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.



23. Can the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment provide advice about whether my planned activities meet the grants objectives?

No. The department cannot 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 program objectives. This is to ensure that the process remains fair and impartial, not advantaging one applicant above another.

24. What are the contract conditions for this grant?

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

25. When can I start my project?

A grantee must not commence work on the project activities before a grant agreement is executed with the department. Payment will not be backdated for activities that commenced before the execution of the grant agreement, and no payments will be made unless a grant agreement has been executed.

Please refer to section 10 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

26. When does the grant program end?

All grant activities are required to be completed by 30 June 2022.

27. 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.

28. Where should I go for further information?

If you have any questions, please call 1800 020 283 (option 1) or Text Telephone / Teletype Terminal / TeleTypewriter (TTY) 1800 555 677 or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within five working days. Final questions must be sent no later than 5.00pm AEDT on 23 October 2020.

29. What feedback will be available for this funding round?

A feedback summary 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 their applications.



30. How will my application be assessed and who is the decision maker?

Applications will first go through a compliance and eligibility check conducted by the Community Grants Hub. Your compliance against the requirements of the application process, your eligibility, and the eligibility of your proposed project against these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Eligible applications will then go through an assessment committee who will assess the application on its merit against each of the assessment criteria and compare it to other applications. The assessment committee will be made up of departmental staff. Applications will then be shortlisted for deliberations by the Selection Advisory Panel.

The Selection Advisory Panel will recommend to the Drought Minister which grant applications should be awarded a grant. The Selection Advisory Panel will be established by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and include a mix of departmental executives and external experts nominated by the department. External experts will be selected based on their relevant knowledge and experience. Applications will be considered by the Selection Advisory Panel in relation to all other applications.

The Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) Board will advise the Drought Minister in relation to making a grant, in accordance with the requirements of the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019*. The Drought Minister is responsible for approving applications for funding.

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

It will take approximately 4 weeks to assess applications. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application.

Please refer to section 7.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

32. What is a project sponsor?

A project sponsor is a legal entity who chooses to apply on behalf of an individual or an organisation that cannot do so themselves because they are not an eligible legal entity. If the application is successful, the sponsor is responsible for the project meeting the grant agreement obligations but is not directly involved in the on-ground delivery of the project.

Please refer to section 4.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

33. What is a project contribution?

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

Cash and/or in-kind contributions must be included in the project budget.



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

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

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

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 should 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.

35. Is sourcing additional cash and in-kind contributions required?

No - contributions (cash or in-kind) are encouraged to help offset any private benefit that may be gained. We will consider how the private benefit is proportional to the private contribution to the cost of the proposed project. The extent and commitment of, and how relevant to the project including the percentage of the contribution being provided will be at your discretion. This will be taken into account during the assessment of the application.

We will consider:

- who will benefit from the proposed project and by how much
- who else will contribute to the cost of the proposed project and the extent of their contribution
- whether the public benefits to be achieved by the proposed project are additional to those that would otherwise be achieved
- whether the value of those benefits exceed the amount of the grant sought
- whether any private benefits to be delivered by your proposed project exceed any private contributions.

36. 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 for more information.



37. How will Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants be administered?

Consistent with the whole-of-government change to centralised grants administration, the Community Grants Hub will administer Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants. This includes managing the receipt of applications, advising unsuccessful grantees, making all payments, undertaking milestone assessments, and completing project and program acquittal. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will conduct the assessment of project proposals – including a Selection Advisory Panel – and will maintain policy responsibility throughout the program.

Details concerning the grant selection process are detailed in section 8 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

38. Will it be possible to submit a YouTube video or similar as part of a Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants application?

No. Applicants can only attach the documents that have been requested.

Please refer to section 7.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

39. Does the program focus on agricultural production as one of the intended outcomes?

Yes, the program focusses on agricultural production as one of the intended drought resilience outcomes. The program is focused on improved management of Natural Capital to increase drought resilience in agricultural landscapes. Under the program’s triple bottom line approach, increased agricultural productivity is seen as one element of the economic drought resilience.

40. Grant activities must be offered in agriculture dependent communities – does this include forestry or fishing?

No, the agricultural sector in scope includes food, fibre and fodder (including aquaculture), but does not include forestry or fishing.

41. Is there a current list of drought affected regions?

No, there is no list of drought affected regions. Projects under the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants should be designed to build resilience to future droughts, not respond to the impacts of current or previous droughts.



42. How will I know if the location of my proposed project is in a region ‘that has been affected by drought, is being affected by drought or at a significant risk of being affected by drought in the future’?

Applicants are required to self-identify as being in ‘a region within Australia and its territories that has been affected by drought, is being affected by drought or at a significant risk of being affected by drought in the future’ as part of the application form.

43. Given the link between drought and bushfires, would themes like providing shade and shelter or water infrastructure to improve readiness for fire be accepted under the program?

We acknowledge the links between drought and bushfire. However, the focus of the program is on preparedness for future droughts through improved management of natural resources.

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

Yes. Innovative approaches that develop and implement new methods to manage natural resources that deliver drought resilience in agricultural landscapes are encouraged.

45. Will education activities (for example, attending a conference or workshops) be considered under the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants?

Yes, provided these activities contribute to the program aims detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



46. What are the acquittal requirements? Specifically, is an independent audit required?

The grant agreement requires grantees to maintain records of expenditure of the grant and submit a financial report on completion of the project. We don't anticipate that there will be a requirement for an independent audit for the final financial report. The project final report is to include:

- a financial statement covering receipt, holding, expenditure and commitment of the grant over the term of the project, including a reconciliation against the project budget
- a report of the receipt of any cash or in-kind contributions (including the grantee's own contributions) over the term of the project, or, if other contributions were not received as budgeted, an explanation of actions taken by the grantee in response to this shortfall
- a financial declaration that includes a certification from the grantee stating that the entirety of the funds (including any interest earned) were spent for the project and in which the grantee is required to declare unspent funds. The declaration must be signed and certified by either the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer or an authorised officer with authority to do so verifying that the funding was spent on the project in accordance with the grant agreement. Giving false or misleading information in such a declaration is a serious offence under section 137.1 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

47. What are the outcomes that the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants wanting to achieve?

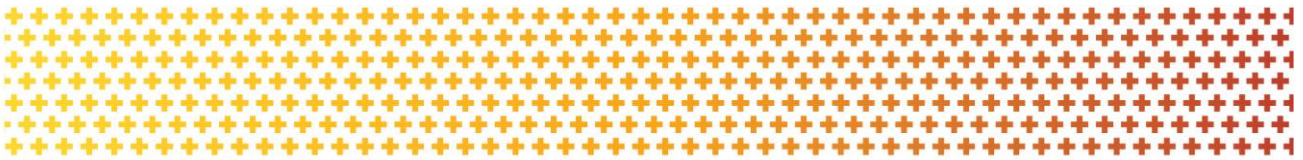
The purpose and outcomes of Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants are described in section 2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

48. The department mentions improving the management of Natural Capital – are there specific methods that the department deems best to do this?

No. The grant money must be used for project activities that contribute to achieving at least two of the outcomes described in section 2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Please refer to section 5.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for examples of eligible project activities for Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants funding.

49. What is considered current best practice by the department? How do I demonstrate the method I will be doing/using/implementing is beyond current best practice?

It is up to the applicant to demonstrate that what they propose is beyond current best practice. Practices/Activities and methods that are already well-established best practice for industries or regions will not be funded. This also includes business-as-usual activities.



The NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants encourages innovation, transformation, experimentation and safe fail (not business as usual). This includes undertaking activities that support transformational change in the management of Natural Capital to deliver drought resilience in agricultural landscapes. These could be practices that:

- change the way the NRM system functions as a result of implementing these practices
- build on or modify existing NRM systems or approaches using innovative practices/approaches (and must not be funded under any other government programs)
- are new research, trials of methods that extend beyond existing best practice, and trialling of best available research that is yet to be implemented.

Natural Capital is the stock of natural assets, including vegetation, soils, water, animals and microorganisms, and the ecosystem goods and services they provide that underpin the health and productivity of the landscape.

50. How will an organisation, farmer group and individual improve the drought resilience of agricultural landscapes?

It is up to the applicant to demonstrate how their proposed project will improve drought resilience of agricultural landscapes. In doing so the project will contribute to the program objectives and outcomes set out in section 2.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Applicants will be required to include measures of success against the broader program objectives and outcomes as part of their project reporting requirements.

51. Can funding be used to engage a contractor (labour and equipment) to perform a particular activity?

Yes, contractor(s) can be engaged to deliver project activities where the project applicant(s) do not have the technical capability or the capacity to deliver those activities themselves, and where those activities are integral to successful achievement of project outcomes.

52. Who owns any intellectual property created in projects funded under this grant program?

The applicant owns the intellectual property rights in material created undertaking the grant activities. However, the applicant gives the Commonwealth non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, publish and adapt reporting material for Commonwealth purposes.

53. Will there be future funding rounds for this grant program?

No decisions to allocate funding beyond 2020-2021 have been made for this or any other programs under the Future Drought Fund. You may like to regularly check the [Department of](#)



[Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#) website or the [GrantConnect](#) website for further information about this and other relevant programs.

Question and Answer added on 8 October 2020

54. Where do I find a sample application form?

There is no sample application form available. You are not required to review a sample application form.

Questions and Answers added on 9 October 2020

55. What is the difference between the currently open NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants and the closed NRM Drought Resilience Program – Landscapes?

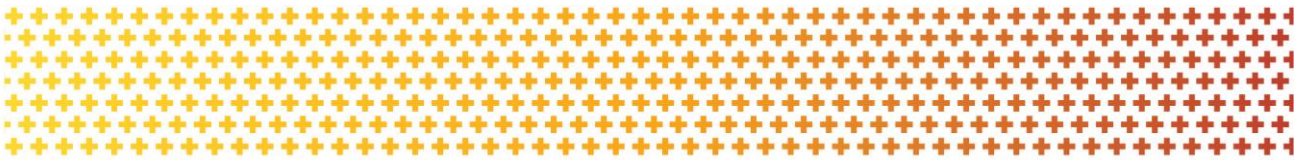
The Future Drought Fund (FDF) NRM Drought Resilience Program has two components aimed at improving the management of natural resources to deliver drought resilience in agricultural landscapes:

- The first of these components, the **FDF NRM Drought Resilience Program – Landscapes**, was open only to regional NRM bodies and closed on 4 September 2020.
- The second of these components, the **FDF NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants**, opened for applications from organisations, farmer groups and individuals on Tuesday 29 September 2020. Applications for this program will close at 11.00pm AEDT on 30 October 2020.

The two components of the NRM Drought Resilience Program enable complementary activities to be undertaken at different scales. The NRM Drought Resilience Program – Landscapes focusses on landscape-scale activities to build drought resilience. The NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants focusses on projects at smaller scales that contribute to landscape-scale drought resilience. The two-pronged approach supports collaboration and facilitates a diversity of participating organisations to deliver effective and efficient drought resilience outcomes.

56. Are regional NRM bodies eligible to apply for both components of the NRM Drought Resilience Program?

Yes, regional NRM bodies are eligible to apply under both components of the NRM Drought Resilience Program. However, regional NRM bodies will not be funded for the same activities under both components.



57. What is the purpose of the letter of support from my regional NRM body?

The letter of support from your regional NRM body will confirm that the proposed project aligns with regional NRM strategies for drought resilience. The regional NRM body will not be:

- providing an assessment of the feasibility or viability of proposed projects
- prioritising projects if there are multiple proposed projects from within the same region.

58. How do I find my local regional NRM body?

Contact details of your regional NRM body can be found on the [NRM Regions Australia website](#).

Questions and Answers added on 14 October 2020

59. Are state governments eligible to apply as part of a consortia?

Yes, state governments are eligible to apply as part of a consortia provided the consortia is led by an eligible entity as outlined in section 4.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

60. Can this program fund on-farm water infrastructure (such as dams, and troughs)?

This program aims to foster innovation and transformational change in the management of natural resources to deliver drought resilience. Infrastructure will not be funded unless it is part of a larger NRM project focussed on delivering drought resilience (for example, creating a holistic grazing system to regenerate groundcover; water troughs as part of farm dam rehabilitation).

Question and Answer added on 15 October 2020

61. Are research institutions eligible to apply for a grant under the Future Drought Fund NRM Drought Resilience Program – Grants?

Research institutions are eligible to apply if they are one of the eligible entities outlined in section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Ineligible entities are able to apply as part of a consortia provided the consortia is led by an eligible entity.