



Established Pest Animals and Weeds Management Pipeline Program - Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions Competitive Grant Round

Questions and Answers

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

The application form must be submitted by **11.00pm AEST on 25 September 2020**. 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.

If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date the <u>late application policy</u> available on the Community Grants Hub website will apply.

3. How much funding is available for this grant program?

Please refer to section 3 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for grant funding limits.

4. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

This grant program is open to organisations with a proven research and development capacity and ability to source additional cash and/or in-kind contributions towards the research project.

Please refer to section 4 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for a full list of eligibility criteria and eligible entity types.

5. 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, or private sector) to undertake the same activity.

Please note that applications will still be considered in circumstances where research activities have progressed to a new stage that extend or expand on previously funded activities.



However, the application will need to demonstrate the successes to date of the previously funded activities and how the additional activities will meet this grant program's objectives and outcomes.

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

Please refer to section 5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

7. Why can't the grant money be used for extension-related activities such as instructional material, workshops, and training?

The purpose of this grant program is to fund research and development that provides new breakthrough pest animal and weed management practices, methods and tools, improves existing ones for use in new or different ways, and/or provides new and enhanced 'farm ready' tools to improve uptake. Any extension related activities required to support a project may be funded through supporting cash and in-kind contributions.

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

Yes, applicants will need to provide additional cash and/or in-kind contributions that will add value to the delivery of a project. A minimum contribution amount has not been established.

9. What pest animals and weeds can be targeted under this grant program?

Please refer to section 2.2.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.

10. What grant activities would be considered eligible under this grant program?

Eligible grant activities are listed under section 5.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Please refer also to the Glossary in section 14 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for key definitions.

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

The application form/s must be submitted by 11.00pm AEST on Friday 25 September 2020.

12. If I am unable to submit my application by the closing time and date, can I be granted an extension?

Please refer to section 7.3 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for exceptional circumstances that may warrant the acceptance of a late application.

13. How do I know if my application has been received?

You will receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your application, to confirm your submission has been received.



Please wait for the acknowledgement email before closing the application form. This may take a few minutes, depending on your internet connection.

14. Can I make changes to my application after it has been submitted?

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted, you should immediately contact the Community Grants Hub by phone on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or by email at support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub may ask you for more information in relation to any mistake(s). Changes are only permitted if they do not change the substance of your application.

Please note, any changes made to the application are at the Community Grants Hub's discretion as there is no requirement to accept any additional information, or requests from applicants to correct applications after the closing time.

15. Is there a limit to the number of applications that an eligible entity can submit?

No. There is no limit to the number of applications that an eligible entity can submit, provided each is for an individual project and they meet all eligibility criteria and the objectives and outcomes outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

16. What is a consortia?

For the purposes of this grant program, a consortia 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 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.

17. Does my consortia application require a letter of support from each of the partners?

Yes, please refer to section 7.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.

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

The application form includes text limits up to 6,000 characters (approximately 900 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 spaces are included in the character limit.



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

Three attachments are required to be submitted as part of your application; see section 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail. Templates for these attachments are available as part of the grant opportunity documents available on the GrantConnect website.

There are instructions in the application form to assist. Only attach the documents you have been asked to include. If these attachment documents are not included in the application form, your application will not be assessed.

20. I have an idea for a project for the grant program. Can the department provide me with advice about my planned activities and if they meet the grant program objectives?

During the application process, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 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 grants objectives. This is to ensure that the process remains equitable, fair and impartial, for all applicants.

21. What are the contract conditions for this grant?

A copy of the grant agreement Terms and Conditions is included as part of the grant opportunity documents available on the GrantConnect website.

22. 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.

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

Please refer to section 8 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines regarding the grant selection process. The Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, is responsible for approving applications for funding.

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

Please refer to section 7.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines regarding application process timing. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application.



25. 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. In order 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.

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

A general feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all applicants with easy to access information about the overall assessment process and the main strengths and areas for improving future applications.

Individual feedback will not be available.

27. When can I start my project?

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not responsible for any expenditure prior to a grant agreement being executed. You must not start any grant activities until a grant agreement is executed. Please refer to section 7.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for application process timing.

For your planning purposes and to assist you with preparing your proposed project budget, if you are successful, it is anticipated that you would be able to start your project from November 2020.

28. When does the grant program end?

All grant activities are scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2023: this may be subject to change based on individual grant agreements.

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

To date, no decision has been made by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on funding additional rounds for this grant program. You may like to keep an eye on the <u>department's website</u> or the <u>GrantConnect</u> website for further information about this and other relevant programs.

30. Where should I go for further information?

If you have any questions, please call 1800 020 283 (option 1) or email support@communitygrants.gov.au. The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within five working days.

Please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au

Question and Answer updated on 6 August 2020

Question 27 has been updated to reflect the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



Question and Answer added on 7 August 2020

31. In relation to section 2.2.3 of the guidelines, can we please clarify whether insects and/or marine pests are included in this? Or is it restricted to vertebrates and weeds?

The program's scope is focused on pest animals and weeds that are not endemic to Australia or a particular part of Australia.

Projects will need to target invasive established pest animals or weeds that have one or more of the following attributes:

- pose a significant threat to agriculture, the environment, people (their health and/or social amenity) or other business activity (including infrastructure), in more than one jurisdiction.
- have already caused significant agricultural, social, economic or environmental impacts, or a combination of impacts, in more than one jurisdiction.
- impacts significantly on nationally important or ecologically valuable species; nationally
 or ecologically important places; or has significant negative consequences and impacts
 areas over an extensive range.
- have biological, ecological, behavioural or physical attributes as a species that are likely to see its population increase in distribution, abundance or density in a region, and so overspill to other localities in future, with likely direct or indirect significant and broad scale impact on agricultural commodities and sectors.

The grant opportunity guidelines do not specifically preclude marine pests or invertebrate pests, but they must meet the above eligibility criteria to be considered.

Question and Answer added on 12 August 2020

32. I was hoping for some clarification around if diseases can be included under this grant. Although diseases are not specifically mentioned, they fit under the attributes provided at 2.2.3 and are not listed as out of scope or excluded.

The program's scope is focused on invasive established pest animals and weeds. Diseases are outside the scope of the program. Projects focussed on exotic pest animals, that may be a vector for disease, may be considered.



Question and Answer added on 10 September 2020

33. In reference to the consortia question on the online application the question mentions "the Applicant should obtain agreement prior to submitting this Application" we take it that this is covered by the letters of support from each partner, can you please confirm this is correct?

It also states on page 15 of the grant guidelines attached that: You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of a grant agreement and provide those details to the Commonwealth for review. Could you please clarify does the letter of support cover this as well, or would you require Memorandum of Understanding or something more formal like before the agreement is signed?

A letter of support that meets the requirements of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (page 15), will cover off on the application question for obtaining agreement with consortium partners participating in the project.

Should you be successful in the grant round, the Commonwealth will also require a formal arrangement, such as a contract, service agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, to be put in place for all the consortium members to the project. The Commonwealth will provide further details prior to execution of a grant agreement.

Questions and Answers added on 21 September 2020

- 34. In the Governance section of the application form it asks whether the applicant has:
 - documented organisational and financial policies and procedures
 - business plan and/or strategic plan
 - risk management plan.

Are these the same as the documents requested in section 7.2 of the guidelines? Or are these separate documents we will be required to provide if requested?

These are different to the documents requested in section 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

35. If they are separate documents in addition to those requested in 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, we have approximately 240 agency wide policies, procedures, guidelines and standards (PPGS) covering issues such as Governance, Financial Management, WHS and Human Resource Management. Business/strategic plan? Please clarify what you need.

The documents requested as part of the Governance section of the application form are standard questions for all Australian Government grant funding rounds. You are only asked to confirm whether or not your organisation has:



- documented organisational and financial policies and procedures
- business plan and/or strategic plan
- risk management plan.

You will not be asked to provide copies of these documents at this stage, but may be requested to provide them at a later date. If the documents are requested, you will be provided further direction.