



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program Round 3

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FACT SHEET Economic Benefits

This document provides guidance on what to consider when responding to Criterion 1 – Economic Benefits question in the online application form.

What MUST I include for this section of the application?

- Identify which of the Round 3 eligible communities your project relates to.
 - It could be one or more communities, minimum is at least one community.
 - Please refer to the Local Government Area (LGA) and name any specific locations within that area that will directly benefit from the project.
 - Describe how much of the LGA will benefit from the project. Will it be all or just parts of the LGA?
- Describe how the project will deliver economic benefits that address the impacts of water recovery on the community.

How do I describe how the project will deliver economic benefits that address the impacts of water recovery on the community?

- What we mean by this is – describe how the project will:
 - increase opportunities within the community for employment. Where are the jobs? How many jobs? How will it deliver more jobs?
 - diversify and strengthen the identified community's economy. Will it create new areas of economic development? New industries, help to develop new sectors? Or will it build on existing ones, making them stronger, better, more innovative?
 - enhance resilience of the community to manage current and future economic challenges and changes. What will this project do to help your community's people, businesses and organisations to deal with the future? For example, with drought, increased mechanisation of industries, changing populations, etc.
- You do not need to talk about how water recovery impacted your community or the extent of this impact. We know your community has been impacted – that is why it is eligible. You have a word limit to answer this criterion so we do not advise using it for this purpose.

- Use your word limit here to address the selection criteria and focus on outcomes. The project plan template will provide more space for you to describe the project details from a project management point of view, to talk about what it is and how it will work, to talk about the other benefits of the project and to describe the 'vision' for the project. You can also use the project plan template to provide more information that you may not be able to include in the application form.
- When describing an increase in employment within your community, please identify if this is due to:
 - **Direct jobs** – created as employment impacts of the project itself. For example, new administrative or construction jobs generated during the process of creating, building or running the project.
 - **Indirect jobs** – created as employment that is expected to be generated in the community because they are affected by, benefit from or support or service the funded project. For example, new transport, trades, retail or food services jobs generated as a result of the project.
 - Includes ongoing jobs – those (both direct and indirect) that will continue after the project has ended and/or that will be created in the future as a result of the project.

Applications that outline measurable outputs of the proposed project, such as the number of jobs that will be created, will be highly regarded.

- Please provide some evidence to support employment claims, for example, a statement or data substantiating the basis of your job estimates. You can provide a link to online material but please note the selection panel is only obligated to consider the content of the application form and will probably not have the time to consider other material.

How specific do I need to be in relation to demonstrating economic benefits?

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide realistic, and if possible, measurable analysis of how the project will increase economic activity in their community.
- The more analysis on the economic benefits of their project applicants can provide within the word limit, the better. Those applications that thoroughly address the economic benefits of their project will be looked upon favourably by the assessment panel in a highly competitive process.

How do I calculate the increase in job numbers?

- Job numbers are expressed in terms of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. An FTE job is not a head count. It refers to the number of hours of work undertaken compared to that typically undertaken by a full-time employee.
 - for example, if a full-time worker works 40 hours per week, a person working 20 hours per week is 0.5 FTE for that week.

When preparing your response, please consider the following:

The employment impacts reported *should* primarily be for new/additional jobs created by the project

- Note, that if the jobs generated are to be filled by shifting existing employees onto the project regardless of whether they are working in your organisation or in other organisations that are benefitting from, or are affected by the project, you cannot report additional (or 'net') job numbers. This is because there is no overall employment gain being generated.
- The combination of direct and indirect additional job impacts gives the total 'net' employment impact of the project in the area affected.
- If there are no net increases but jobs that would otherwise disappear are going to be retained in the community, please make this clear.

Information about employment impacts should include some estimation of the expected duration of the employment

- For example, 'it is anticipated that 5 direct FTE jobs will be generated for a period of 6 months during the project period' or '3 FTE indirect ongoing jobs will be generated following the project period'. Background considerations to these time estimates:
 - for infrastructure or community investment projects it is expected that some direct job impacts may only be felt during the active construction or development phase, and so should be reported as time-specific (for example, for 6 months)
 - it is to be expected that some indirect jobs generated by the project may not be time constrained (for example, ongoing additional retail or food services jobs generated by the ongoing presence and community use of funded new infrastructure or community amenity). Noted above as ongoing jobs.

Who can I contact for further information in relation to job creation statistics in my community?

- Your local council.
- Your local chamber of commerce.

Where can I find other information that may be able to assist me in preparing my application?

Visit:

1. [Community Grants Hub – Tips on what makes a good grant application](#)
2. [Community Grants Hub – Tips on providing strong evidence](#)
3. [Community Grants Hub – Tips on applying for a grant](#)