



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment

## Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program Round 3

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FACT SHEET Community Support and Benefits

*This document provides guidance on what to consider when responding to Criterion 2 – Community Support and Benefits questions in the online application form.*

#### What MUST I include in these sections (Community Support and Benefits Part A and Part B) of the application?

- A description of how the project supports and benefits the relevant community or communities as opposed to individuals or individual enterprises.
- A description of your community's support for the project.
- An explanation of the linkages of the project to relevant local economic development strategies.
- An analysis of the public benefit.
- Recent evidence from key stakeholders and of your community's support for this project.

#### What are the different types of evidence I can provide?

- **Quantitative evidence** is numerical – it can be counted or measured objectively. You can say how many groups or people support your project or what proportion of the community supports it. You can say how many organisations or what proportion of the community will be supported by the project.
- **Qualitative evidence** describes, explains, or tells a story about the benefits and support. Do you have any examples of how well the project is supported or stories of how this or other communities have benefited from this type of project?
- **Evaluations** provide quantitative and qualitative information on the effectiveness of current services or programs conducted either in your community or in similar circumstances. Perhaps your project is a latter phase of a multi-staged project that has been very successful and well supported and you are seeking to replicate these results.
- **Expert evidence** is based on research and expert opinions. This can be in relation to similar projects or to earlier phases of a multi-staged project.
- **Anecdotal evidence** is based on opinion.

*It is possible to collect evidence in many ways and you should consider drawing on a range of evidence sources to demonstrate community support and benefit.*

## How do I demonstrate that my project is supported by the community and will provide benefit?

### You might consider the following potential sources of quantitative evidence:

- data from your own records and experiences as a service provider (for example, annual reports, surveys, meeting attendance, consultations conducted). Other examples may be:
  - evidence or demonstrated changes in spending patterns in town when the caravan park was upgraded
  - the number of visitors that would extend their stay in the community should a particular attraction be available).
- data available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (for example, census data or crime statistics)
- program or service evaluations, reports released by research bodies, government departments, or not-for-profit organisations.

### You might consider the following potential sources of qualitative evidence:

- analysis supporting, or expert advice on, the need for the project
- interviews – conducted by your own organisation or another – with clients or subject experts, with a focus on benefits of proposed services to the local community
- content from broadcast or social media
- public meetings and fora.

*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.*

## What are the best documents to provide to demonstrate community support?

- The plans, priorities or challenges contained in any relevant local, state or Australian Government policies or other documentation that demonstrate the project is a strategic priority and documentation that shows how your project links to these.
- An analysis of the public benefit.
- Recent evidence from key stakeholders of support for this project. Key stakeholders may include, but are not limited to, relevant local governments, community stakeholders and Indigenous communities.
- You may include up to 5 written letters of support consolidated into a single attachment, *or*
- you may provide an attachment containing stakeholder engagement documentation that evidences your community consultation processes and results of community support.
- You only need to provide **one** attachment and it can be either of the above, or
- you can choose to provide one of each of the above types.
- To be clear – you must provide one type but you can choose to provide both. Please do not provide 2 sets of letters or 2 sets of other evidence. If you choose to provide both the mandatory and optional types of evidence, please make it one of each type.

**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](#)

State contacts to assist with an explanation of the linkages of the project to relevant state economic development strategies

<b>State</b>	<b>Email or web address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<b>New South Wales</b> - Riverina	<a href="mailto:margaret.odwyer@regional.nsw.gov.au">margaret.odwyer@regional.nsw.gov.au</a>	02 9714 3884 0408 963 148
- North West	<a href="mailto:melinda.atkin@regional.nsw.gov.au">melinda.atkin@regional.nsw.gov.au</a>	0436 463 334
- Central and Far West	<a href="mailto:ben.morgan@regional.nsw.gov.au">ben.morgan@regional.nsw.gov.au</a>	0428 842 282
<b>Queensland</b> - Paroo	<a href="mailto:jody.dare@dsdti@qld.gov.au">jody.dare@dsdti@qld.gov.au</a>	(07) 4624 1573
- Balonne	<a href="mailto:sarah.holt@dsdti@qld.gov.au">sarah.holt@dsdti@qld.gov.au</a>	(07) 4624 1543
<b>South Australia</b>	<a href="mailto:Barbara-ann.Cowey@sa.gov.au">Barbara-ann.Cowey@sa.gov.au</a>	08 8595 9153 0488 951 790
<b>Victoria</b>	<a href="https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/about-rdv/contacts-and-assistance">https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/about-rdv/contacts-and-assistance</a>	