



Future Drought Fund: Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes (DRSL) grants program.

Questions and Answers

Applying for a grant

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

The application form must be submitted by 9.00 pm AEDT on 11 January 2022. It is recommended that you submit your application well before the closing time and date as late applications will not be accepted.

2. How can I submit an application form?

The application form is an online document that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or post.

3. 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. All applications must be submitted by the closing date and time.

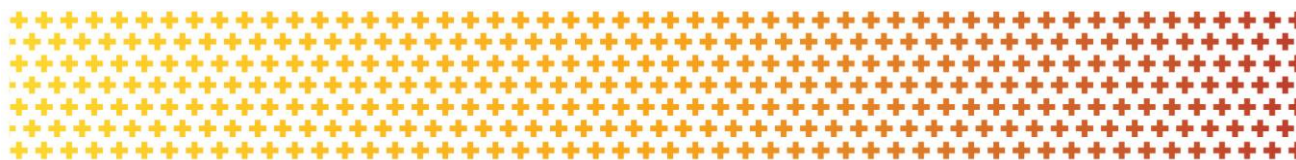
If you experience technical difficulties submitting your application before the closing date and time, you should seek assistance from the Community Grants Hub immediately on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Late applications will not be accepted.

4. 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, but 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.

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



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

You will receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your application to confirm your application has been received. Please wait for the acknowledgement email before closing your browser. This may take a few minutes depending on your internet connection.

6. Can I submit more than one application?

You may submit, or be part of a consortium, on more than one application. There are no limits on the number of applications you can be part of. However, a separate application form must be submitted for each proposed project before the closing date and time.

If more than one application is submitted for the same proposed project, only the latest application form will progress.

7. Can someone from the Community Grants Hub help me with my application?

No. The Community Grants Hub can only provide general information and advice on completing your application (for example, technical assistance). To maintain the fairness and integrity of the application process, applicants cannot be offered individual support or help with their applications.

8. 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 and maintain its integrity without advantaging one applicant above another.

9. Do character limits apply to my application?

Yes. Where indicated, for example, assessment criteria, the application includes character limits – up to 3,500 characters (approximately 525 words) per assessment criterion. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

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

We encourage you to use sharp, concise and clear answers. The application form will not accept characters beyond the limit (see question 9). There will be a character count below each question that shows you how many characters you have entered.



11. 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 (potentially by the end of March 2022). For probity reasons, and 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.

About the Program

12. What is the purpose of the Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes grants program?

The program is seeking to trial and demonstrate how scaling of particular practices (or combinations of practices) to improve management of natural capital can build drought resilience on agricultural landscapes.

Please refer to section 2.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

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

A total of \$23 million is available for the Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes grants program. Applications are sought for projects between \$500,000 and \$1 million (exclusive of GST).

14. 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.

15. When can I start my project?

You can start your project only after the grant agreement has been executed. Payments will not be backdated for activities that commenced before the execution of the Grant Agreement. No payments will be made unless a Grant Agreement has been executed.

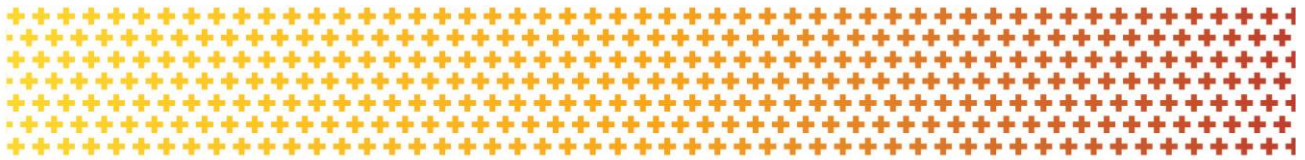
Please refer to section 10 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

16. When does the grant program end?

All grant activities are required to be completed by 30 June 2024.

17. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible to apply you must be an Australian based organisation, 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 for a list of eligible entity types.

18. Does the program aim for improved agricultural productivity as one of the intended outcomes?

Yes, the program aims for trialing, demonstrating and communicating practices that improve drought resilience and support continued agricultural productivity and profitability during times of drought, and faster recovery for agricultural productivity and profitability following times of drought.

Please refer to section 2.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

19. What is a ‘service area’?

A ‘service area’ is the Local Government Area(s) (LGA) where you are proposing to deliver your project. You will be asked in your application to select the relevant service area(s).

20. What is an ‘agricultural landscape within Australia’?

An agricultural landscape is a region in which agriculture is the predominant form of land use.

Please refer to section 5.1 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

21. How will I demonstrate that my project will improve the drought resilience of agricultural landscapes?

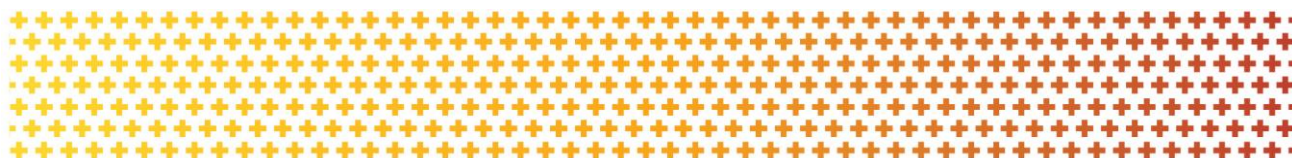
Applications should clearly and explicitly explain how proposed activities lead to drought resilience, that is, not just state that they do. Contributions to the program objectives and outcomes set out in section 2.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines should also be explicit and clear.

22. Do I need to provide matching funding (a contribution/co-contribution)?

No, financial (cash) or in-kind contributions from you or a third party are not mandatory.

However, financial or in-kind contributions will be highly regarded and positively contribute to the assessment of ‘value for money’ offered by your project. Co-contributions should be clearly identified in the budget form provided as part of your application.

Note: any private benefits gained should be more than offset by public benefits and/or co-contributions from non-government sources.



23. What is a project contribution/co-contribution, and what is the difference between a cash contribution and in-kind contribution(s)?

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

- 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.
- In-kind contributions are goods, services, equipment loans or labour that others provide to the project. 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 contribution(s) based on reasonable market value of the resources brought to the project.

Both cash and in-kind contributions (if proposed) must be included in the project budget.

24. What is a financial viability assessment?

A financial viability assessment is an analysis of an applicant's finances to determine the general financial risk of an organisation. This risk is part of the consideration undertaken by the Selection Advisory Panel and the decision maker when determining whether to provide a grant to an applicant.

25. Can I add additional attachments to those listed in the guidelines?

No. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in additional attachments. You must also use the mandatory template for the budget.

Please refer to section 7.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for detail.

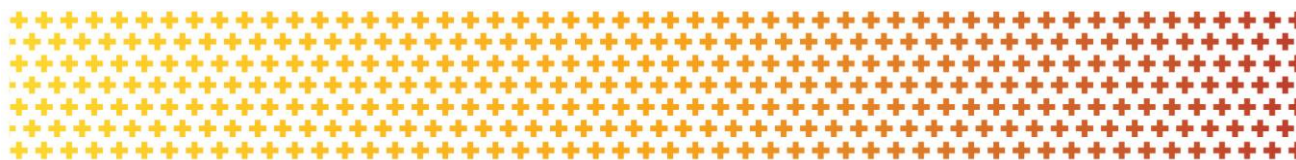
26. What is a consortium?

A consortium is 2 or more organisations who are working together to combine their capabilities when developing and delivering a grant activity. In these circumstances, a 'lead applicant' (must be an eligible entity type as outlined in Section 4.1) of the consortium must be appointed and only the lead applicant can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Please refer to section 4 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

27. Is it better to submit a consortium application?

Applicants will need to submit the best proposal that they can prepare 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.



28. If I am applying to lead a consortium, does my application require separate letters of support from each of the members of the consortium?

No, only one letter of support signed by each of the consortia partners is required if applying as a consortium.

Please refer to sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.

29. My attachments would 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.

30. Can I send attachments outside of the application form?

No. Attachments must be submitted through the application form. Only attachments that have been asked for in the application form will be accepted.

31. If I am unable to meet all the eligibility criteria, can my project still be considered?

No, only applicants/applications that meet all the eligibility requirements (refer to section 4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines) will be considered for assessment.

32. I have applied for funding for my project under another Australian Government grants program, can I still apply under this program?

While you can apply for the same project/activities under other government programs, you cannot be funded under another government program for the same activities. As part of your application, you are required to declare whether any proposed project activities are part of an application you have made for funding under another government program.

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

No. 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.

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

If the Community Grants Hub find an error or information that is missing in your application, they may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature



of your application. However, they can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

Eligibility requirements

35. Can grant funding be used for administration and/or project management costs?

Yes, but please note the following limits:

- A maximum of 10% of the grant amount sought for administrative support costs and overheads, additional to the normal day-to-day running costs of the organisation, including project management or project co-ordination. This also includes auspicings arrangements, that is, management and coordination services done by a third party.
- These costs also include a maximum of 5% of the grant amount sought for reporting on project progress and outcomes in the form advised by the department.

Please refer to section 5.3 and 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

36. Can grant funding be used for capital expenditure (including mobile capital equipment), construction works or earthworks?

Yes, only if directly needed for the activities under the project, noting that a maximum of 25% of the grant value applies.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

Mobile capital equipment is a physical item of property needed for productive activity with a useful life beyond the term of the grant. This includes, for example, machinery, tools, trucks, tractors, and such.

Note: only equipment needed for project activities will be funded, noting that a maximum of 25% of the grant value applies.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

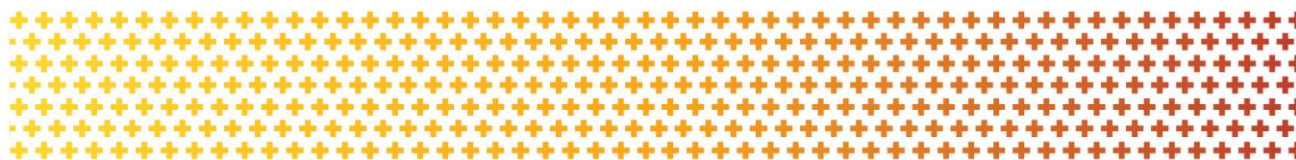
37. Can grant funding be used for staff training costs?

Yes, however a maximum of 5% of the grant amount sought can be spent on staff training costs that directly supports the achievement of project outcomes.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

38. What limits apply to the breakdown of my proposed budget expenditure?

- 10% maximum for administration. This includes a maximum of 5% for progress and other reporting.
- A maximum of 5% for staff training that is essential for delivery of your project.
- 25% maximum for essential capital works, mobile capital, construction or earthworks.



39. Will education activities (for example, running or participating in a conference or workshops) be considered under the program?

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

40. 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, activities, systems or approaches that have been tried in a different area/region or industry can be adapted or tested in the project's region. However, contribution of these activities to drought resilience in this region and to program outcomes and objectives must be explicitly and clearly articulated in the proposal.

Please refer to section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

41. Are research projects eligible for funding?

No. The program is not supporting basic research and early-stage innovation. We are focused on demonstrating the potential impact of implementing relatively mature practices (or combinations of practices) at scale.

42. Are rural research and development corporations eligible to apply for a grant under the Future Drought Fund Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Grants Program?

No. Rural research and development corporations can be members of a consortium with an eligible lead organisation who is the applicant, but they are not eligible to apply or lead consortia for this grant opportunity.

Please refer to sections 4.1 and 4.3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

43. The Grant Opportunity Guidelines mention improving the management of natural capital – are there specific methods that the department deems best to do this?

No. It is up to the applicant to demonstrate that what they propose is contributing to improving the management of natural capital to deliver drought resilience and improve productivity and profitability of agricultural landscapes.

Please refer to section 5.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for examples of eligible project activities.

44. What are the contract conditions for this grant?

A Standard Commonwealth Grant Agreement will be used in this program. Templates of the agreement and supplementary documents are included as part of the grant opportunity documents available on the GrantConnect and the Community Grants Hub websites.



45. 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 related intellectual property must be freely available for use by the Commonwealth. This is a key focus of the program, and an important way in which projects will deliver public good benefits.

46. Can the grant recipient pass on funding as a devolved grant to a third party?

No. The grant money cannot be used as grants from you to another entity.

47. 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.

Please refer to 5.3 eligible expenditure of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

48. Can this program fund on-farm water infrastructure?

No. The program cannot fund new water infrastructure which is considered part of running a regular farm business.

However, this program could fund the management of farm dams and riparian areas, both for stock water and biodiversity purposes, for example, through landscape rehydration, farm dam rehabilitation, water spreading and ponding, and similar approaches.

Small-scale infrastructure (such as fences around farm dams), that are required specifically for the project activities may be funded, noting that a maximum of 25% of total grant funding applies.

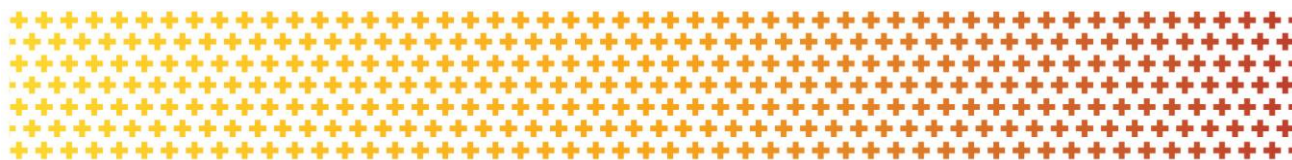
Selection process, assessment criteria and feedback

49. How will the program be administered?

Consistent with the whole-of-government change to centralised grants administration, the Community Grants Hub will administer the program. 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.

Please refer to section 8 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.



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

Applications will first go through an applicant eligibility and compliance check conducted by the Community Grants Hub. A departmental Assessment Committee will consider the extent to which each application addresses the selection criteria. The committee will provide an initial ranking of applications to inform the deliberations of an independent Selection Advisory Panel.

The panel will then assess the extent to which each application represents value with money and make final recommendations to the Minister for Drought. The Minister for Drought is responsible for deciding which applications are successful and will receive funding.

Please refer to section 8 in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more detail.

51. 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.

Individual feedback may be sought within 20 business days of being notified of the outcome of your application. We will not provide individual feedback after this timeframe.

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

The decision to allocate funding beyond 2020–24 has not been made for this program. Funding for this program is only provided for the term of the grant.

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.

53. 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 5 working days. Final questions must be sent no later than 5.00pm AEDT on 22 December 2021.

Please refer to Section 7.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines

54. What if other potential applicants have similar or other, pertinent questions?

Consistent with standard grant management procedures, answers to all questions will be made available to all potential applicants in a timely manner, by updating this 'Question and Answer' document. This document will be updated to include additional questions and answers as they arise during the open application period (up to 5:00 pm AEDT on 22 December 2021). We suggest you check this document frequently for additional information which may assist you in developing your application.



Questions and Answers updated 16 December 2021

55. Will carbon rights be eligible for the landholder to register under the ERF process and or any other similar program at a future date? If yes, will that be 100% entitlement or is there a 'share farm' style arrangement with the Commonwealth?

Grantees should be aware of some of the project requirements under the Emissions Reduction Fund. For example, to ensure carbon credits are issued for emissions reductions that are real and additional to normal business practice, projects must not have commenced prior to participating in the Fund. The crediting arrangements will depend on the way in which the project is established and whether a carbon service provider is used.

It is recommended that specific queries about participating in the Emissions Reduction Fund are directed to the [Clean Energy Regulator](#).

Questions and Answers updated 22 December 2021 – Additional Webinar questions

56. The guidelines refer to “farming” and all examples shown therein refer to activities that would be undertaken on a farm. Does “pastoral” or “rangelands” agriculture fit within this program?

Yes. It's a national program looking for all kinds of farming systems, for example rangelands, horticulture, grazing, broad acre cropping, irrigated cropping and so forth are included. It's about trying to help agriculture become more drought resilient.

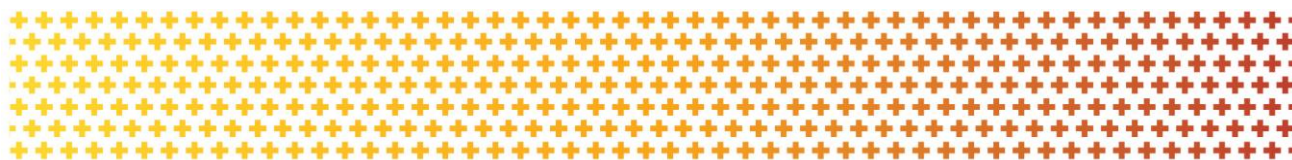
57. Do projects need to align with the priorities, link with or have endorsement from the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs? What is the role of the Adoption and Innovation Hubs in the prioritisation and administration of this grant opportunity? Will projects that involve an Adoption and Innovation Hub be more likely to be funded?

There is no mandatory requirement to involve an Adoption and Innovation Hub. It's not an eligibility criteria and all projects will be assessed based on their individual merits.

That said, we encourage connections between Adoption and Innovation Hubs and potential projects under this Soils and Landscapes program. We are seeking applications for projects which will complement, build and leverage on other investments under the Future Drought Fund and/or other programs which similarly seek to enhance future drought resilience.

58. Can we extend an existing project that is making a difference to a larger scale and extend the project over longer period?

Activities that are funded by other government programs cannot be funded from this program. However, projects can leverage and/or incorporate activities funded from other sources where



it can be demonstrated that public funds are not being used for the same activity, and the funding will add additional value to already funded activities.

It is also important that your application clearly aligns with the guidelines for this program – particularly, that it supports drought resilience, through demonstration of land management practices, at scale – rather than simply extending a project that is funded under a different program aimed at different outcomes.

59. Is there a link where I can watch the FDF Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes webinar from 14 December 2021?

The video and transcript of the [Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes webinar](#) which was held on 14 December 2021 is available on the [FDF website Drought Resilience Soils and Landscapes grants](#).

60. Given the focus on land management do you expect a preponderance of successes to be NRM bodies?

Not necessarily. Applications are open to a range of entity types with a variety of expertise. Each application will be assessed individually on the extent to which it addresses the selection criteria. Applications from all entity types will be considered equally and individually on their merits.

61. Will grant funding be paid in advance or paid in arrears?

A mixture of both. An executed grant agreement must be in place before any payments can be made. The grant agreement includes details of milestone deliverables and associated payments. Payments are made subject to satisfactory progress on the grant activities and paid on acceptance by the department. It is recognised that projects may require some funding in advance in order to support project activities.

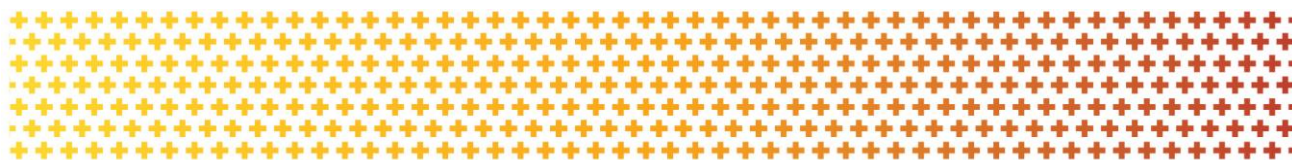
Please refer to sections 10.1 and 10.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

62. How long is the project period?

Successful projects are expected to be undertaken over the 2021–22 to 2023–24 financial years, ending 30 June 2024. While funding will be across 3 financial years, we anticipate that projects will start in April/May 2022 and conclude on 30 June 2024.

63. Will a project that scales out land management practices across a State be considered equally as a National project?

There is no concept of a “national project” in the grant opportunity guidelines. We are seeking projects that can demonstrate and drive adoption at scale. Projects that are scaled out to demonstrate effectiveness across a state or territory are welcome and would be assessed based on their individual merits.



64. If the (Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation) Hub leads or collaborates with a proposal then any resources from the Hub would surely be "double dipping"?

Activities that are funded by other government programs cannot also be funded from this program. This does not mean that Hubs cannot lead or collaborate on a project, just that they cannot be funded twice to do the specific activities in question.

65. Do stream rehabilitation projects (for example instream structure) where these slow water and allow infiltration (replenishment of groundwater stores) fit this program?

Yes, they could potentially fit into this program, if they can be justified in terms of drought resilience benefits for agricultural productivity.

66. Can a (Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation) hub be a lead proponent?

A lead applicant must be an eligible entity type and meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Please refer to section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for a list of eligible entity types.

67. Does the application require a forecast costing/cashflow?

As part of the application, you will be required to provide information on how the proposed grant funding will be split across each financial year, including attaching (using the mandatory template) a budget which outlines the cost of each of the proposed project activities as well as any co-contribution funding to deliver the project. You will also be required to provide information to support understanding of your financial viability as an applicant.

Please refer to section 7.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Questions and Answers updated 23 December 2021 – Addition to question 59

59. Is there a link where I can watch the FDF Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes webinar from 14 December 2021?

The video and transcript of the [Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes webinar](#) which was held on 14 December 2021 is available on the [FDF website Drought Resilience Soils and Landscapes grants](#).

Please note that the webinar and transcript appear to have contained an error in stating that CSIRO would not be eligible to apply. The correct statement regarding CSIRO's eligibility is that CSIRO should determine whether their organisation fits into the list of eligible entities described in section 4.1 of the Guidelines, or whether it fits into the list of ineligible entities described in section 4.3 of the Guidelines.