



Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Soil Science Challenge

Questions and Answers

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

The application form must be submitted by 9.00 pm AEDT on Monday 14 February 2022. 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. Late applications will not be accepted.

3. How much funding is available for this program?

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$20 million (GST exclusive) over 4 years commencing in 2021–22 for the Soil Science Challenge. You may apply for total funding within the following range:

- The minimum total grant amount is \$500,000 (GST exclusive).
- The maximum total grant amount is \$5,000,000 (GST exclusive).

It is preferred that projects run over the full 4-year period.

4. Is the funding ongoing?

No. You must complete your grant activities by 30 June 2025 with a final report submitted by September 2025.

5. Can anyone apply?

To be eligible to apply for a grant you must be a research organisation, hold an account with an Australian financial institution, and be an eligible entity type. For more information, refer to section 4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

6. Can I apply as part of a consortium?

Yes. We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver a project. In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.



7. Can organisations submit more than one application?

Yes, you may submit more than one application form for each project. A separate application form must be submitted for each project. If more than one application is submitted for the same project, the latest accepted application form will progress.

8. Can I apply for funding under multiple grant programs?

Yes, you can apply for grants for your project under any Commonwealth program, but if your applications are successful, you must choose either the Soil Science Challenge grant or the other Commonwealth grant. A grant cannot be provided if you receive funding from another government source for the same purpose.

9. How can I submit the application form?

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

10. Do character limits apply to my application?

Yes, the application form includes character limits – up to 6,000 characters (approximately 900 words) per assessment criterion. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

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

No further attachments will be accepted. Applicants must use the online grant application form which has in-built project plan and budget templates.

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

You will receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your application to confirm your submission has been received. If you do not receive an acknowledgement email you should contact support@communitygrants.gov.au.

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

The assessment and approval of applications will take approximately 8 weeks. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application. See section 7.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information.

14. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application 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.



15. What if I find there is an error or information missing from my application?

If you find an error or missing information in your application after it has been submitted, but before the closing date and time, you should immediately contact the Community Grants Hub by phone on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or by email at support@communitygrants.gov.au. You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

16. Will I receive feedback on my application?

Individual feedback will not be provided; however, a feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy access to information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving applications.

17. Where can I find more information about the National Soil Strategy?

More information on the National Soil Strategy and the National Soil Package can be found on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment [website](#).

18. Where can I find more information about the Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) assessment criterion?

More information on the Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) assessment criterion can be found on the Australian Research Council's [website](#).

19. Where can I find more information about the Australian Government's National Science and Research Priorities?

More information on the Australian Government's National Science and Research Priorities can be found on the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources [website](#).

20. Where can I find more information about this grant opportunity?

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

Questions and Answers added 22 December 2021

21. Can more clarification please be provided around the sentence in 3.1 of the guidelines '*You are required to source and declare any other cash contributions that will be put towards the proposed project*'. What level of cash co-contribution is required / desired, and what are the restrictions / requirements regarding the source of cash?

There is no requirement for a funded organisation to source other cash contributions. The sentence in 3.1 of the guidelines refers to the situation where a funded organisation may



choose to source other cash contributions (donations) if the funding provided is less than the funding required for their desired research purposes.

Applicants must declare cash contributions towards the proposed project in their application.

Grant funding cannot be used for activities for which you have previously received funding from the Commonwealth or another source (such as state, territory or local government, or private sector).

Question and Answer added 19 January 2022

22. I'm considering applying for the Soil Science Grant (GO5245), however, I'm not sure if developing technologies for remediation of soil contaminated by industrial activities is out of scope. Can you please clarify?

Research projects considered to be within the scope of the Soil Science Challenge are those that can contribute to the objectives and outcomes provided at section 2.2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Information about the assessment criteria is provided at section 6 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Question and Answer added 9 February 2022

23. Our Department is part of the Queensland 'state...government' and is therefore eligible to apply based on Section 4.1 - point 1 of the Eligibility Criteria. However, our department is also a 'non-corporate state or territory entity', which is ineligible to apply based on Section 4.2 - point 4 of the Eligibility Criteria.

So it appears that Section 4.1 - point 1 and Section 4.2 - point 4 in the Eligibility Criteria conflict with each other. Therefore, I would appreciate a clarification from the grants hub.

All of the eligibility criteria provided at Section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines must be met in order to apply. Non-corporate State or Territory entities are not eligible entity types, and are therefore not eligible to apply for this grant.



Question and Answer added 10 February 2022

24. I would like to know whether there would be more grant opening rounds for Soil Science Challenge Grant in the future. We are aware of the current open one.

"The Australian Government has announced a total of \$20 million (GST exclusive) for the program, with \$5 million (GST exclusive) available each year for 4 years, commencing in 2021–22." This is the guideline of current opening grant. Not clear whether it means \$5 million available each year for 4 years, or \$5 million available each round for 4 years.

Funding under the Soil Science Challenge has been made available under the current single grant round.

Applicants may apply for a maximum total grant amount of \$5 million (GST exclusive), and for a maximum total project timeframe of 4 years.
