



Australian Government

Community
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2018-2600 Our Marine Parks - Generic Feedback

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The Our Marine Parks Round One grant opportunity is part of the Fisheries Assistance and User Engagement Package. The Package was developed to assist industries and communities transition to five new Australian Marine Park management plans covering 44 Australian Marine Parks that came into effect on 1 July 2018. These management plans set out how the Director of National Parks will manage the marine parks over the next 10 years including through zoning arrangements that both protect Australia's marine environment and support Australia's world-class sustainable commercial fishing sector.

The Package will assist industries and communities transition to the new management arrangements and includes Fishing Business Assistance grants, Vessel Monitoring System Assistance, a Coral Sea Fishery Licence Buy-out and Our Marine Parks grants.

This grant opportunity is intended to increase engagement in the management of Australian Marine Parks through high quality projects that deliver both sustainable fishing and conservation outcomes. Having projects delivered by representative organisations will result in the best outcomes for fishers at an industry or fishery scale. It is also intended that the grant opportunity will assist the fishing sector operate sustainably within Australian Marine Parks, particularly in the context of new management arrangements.

The application period opened on 14 February 2019 and closed at 2.00PM AEDT on 12 March 2019. Applicants could apply for a minimum of \$50,000 GST exclusive and a maximum of \$1,000,000 GST exclusive in funding over the funding period. Successful organisations may have received less funding than requested.

The Our Marine Parks grants will consist of two competitive granting opportunities. The second opportunity, Our Marine Parks Round Two, will be open to a wider range of marine park user groups.

This feedback is provided to help grant applicants understand what made a strong application for this grant round, and how to strengthen future applications.



Selection Process

A targeted competitive selection process was used, allowing a range of organisations that meet the eligibility criteria to apply.

Applications were first screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, including the provision of the required Budget and Project Plan attachments.

All eligible and compliant applications were then assessed against the three equally weighted assessment criteria. Information on what made a strong response is provided for each criterion later in this document.

Following assessment, a Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel) with a mix of relevant policy, program and delivery expertise from the Department of the Environment and Energy, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation made final funding recommendations.

Seventeen applications were received, making the selection of successful grant recipients competitive.

The Panel recommended applicants to be funded based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria and their ability to meet the grant objectives outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The Panel recommended 12 applications (eight organisations) to the delegate for funding. The Minister made the final decision to approve the grants, including the grant funding amounts to be awarded.



Criterion 1

Demonstrate how your project meets one or more of the following objectives:

- a) improves the long-term sustainability of fishing in ways that support the objectives of Australian Marine Parks, or
- b) facilitates the engagement of marine park users in activities to support the management of Australian Marine Parks, or
- c) assists in engaging marine park users in programs that contribute to the knowledge of Australian Marine Parks,

where the Australian Marine Park is one or more listed in Appendix A of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
<p>a) Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project improves the long-term sustainability of fishing in ways that support the objectives of Australian Marine Parks.</p> <p>b) Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project facilitates the engagement of marine park users in activities to support the management of Australian Marine Parks.</p> <p>c) Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project assists in engaging marine park users in programs that contribute to the knowledge of Australian Marine Parks, where the Australian Marine Park is one or more listed in Appendix A of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.</p>	<p>The majority of applicants applied for objective a), a small number of applicants applied for objective b), and no applicants applied for objective c).</p> <p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the project will improve the long-term sustainability of fishing in Australian Marine Parks • the proposed project in the work plan including activities to be undertaken, project outcomes, monitoring and evaluation, in-kind contributions, and risks and dependencies • the need for the project and/or the gaps the project will meet • how the proposed project does not duplicate other activities • how the proposed project leverages off existing knowledge (if available) • how the project and/or its learnings could be applied to different geographical areas and/or fishery type (if applicable) • how learnings from the project could be peer reviewed and shared (if applicable). <p>Weaker applications did not clearly demonstrate:</p>



Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the project would benefit the wider fishing industry and community.



Criterion 2

Demonstrate your organisation’s capability to successfully deliver the project on time and within budget

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will:

- Use examples to describe your organisation’s experience with developing and implementing similar or like projects.
- Explain the relevant experience and qualifications held by key personnel and their role in managing the project.

Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
<p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated experience with developing and implementing similar or like projects.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• previous experience administering and delivering grants/securing outcomes• relevant experience and expertise in delivering similar projects and demonstrating success of previous projects• leading or partnering with other organisation(s) to successfully deliver similar projects. <p>Weaker applications did not clearly demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a strong history in meeting contractual requirements, including timeframes and reporting.
<p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the relevant experience and qualifications held by key personnel and their role in managing the project.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• relevant skills and experience of staff, such as identifying key staff to be involved with the project; their roles, skills/qualifications and/or experience working on similar projects• where key organisational staff are not available, the third party or external contractors to be used, and any relevant skills they possess. <p>Weaker applications did not clearly demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how key personnel will be involved in managing the project and their capabilities



Criterion 3

Demonstrate stakeholder engagement

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will:

- Demonstrate your organisation’s member support for the project and that it benefits a majority of the members of the invited organisation (or members in the fishery to which the project relates).
- Identify and describe the involvement of key stakeholders in the proposed project (including demonstrating commitment from project partners, if required).
- Demonstrate support from the relevant fisheries management agency for the project (or why their support is not required).
- Outline what resources (financial or in-kind) your organisation, or a third party (such as external partners or state or territory funding schemes) will contribute to the project.

Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
Strong applications clearly demonstrated member support for the project and that it benefits a majority of the members of the invited organisation (or members in the fishery to which the project relates).	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high level of member support for the project and the benefits that would be delivered through the project.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the involvement of key stakeholders in the proposed project (including demonstrating commitment from project partners, if required).	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involvement and liaison with key stakeholders in developing the proposed project • project partners and their commitment.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated support from the relevant fisheries management agency for the project (or why their support is not required).	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support or partnership with relevant industry or management agency/ies for the project • why relevant fisheries management agency support was not required for the project.
Strong applications clearly demonstrated what resources (financial or in-kind) your organisation, or a third party (such as external partners or state or territory funding schemes) will contribute to the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • value for money including financial or in-kind contribution to the project. Weaker applications did not clearly demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial or in-kind contributions from the applicant or partners



Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reasonable budgeted costs in relation to the project, including administration and capital costs.