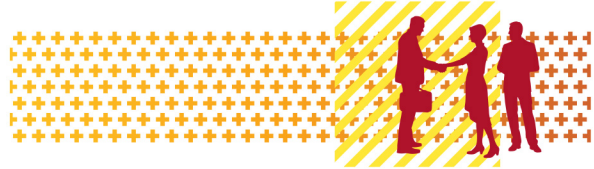




Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Biosecurity Business Grants – Round 2

Feedback for applicants

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has provided the following General Feedback for applicants of the Biosecurity Business Grants – Round 2 grant opportunity.

Overview

The grant opportunity application period opened on 4 October 2022 and closed on 14 November 2022. The grant opportunity received 25 applications.

The grant program will provide funding to support Indigenous business opportunities relating to biosecurity activities in northern Australia including the Torres Strait. Biosecurity activities are controls or actions which minimise the risk of exotic pests, weeds and diseases entering Australia to protect our \$60 billion agriculture export industries, our unique environment, cultural and heritage values, our tourism industries and our way of life including biosecurity:

- surveillance/monitoring
- preparedness
- risk management
- capability building.

The objective of the grant program is to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and other organisations working with Indigenous people in northern Australia to view biosecurity as a business opportunity through the development of innovative business ideas.

The intended outcomes of the grant program are to:

- contribute to biosecurity outcomes in northern Australia
- support increased economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines \(CGRGs\)](https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf)¹.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>

Selection process

The Community Grants Hub undertook the screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This information was provided to DAFF for the final decision on whether an application did not meet the eligibility and/or compliance criteria. Ineligible and non-compliant applications did not progress to assessment.

DAFF then assessed and considered all eligible and compliant applications through a targeted competitive grant process. All assessed applications were considered by the Selection Advisory Panel. The panel, established by DAFF, was comprised of subject matter experts. The panel assessed applications and provided advice to inform DAFF's funding recommendations to the Delegate.

Applications were considered on their merits, based on all of the following:

- how well it met the criteria
- how it compared to other applications
- the developmental plan outline and other required attachments
- whether it provided value with relevant money

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, the Selection Advisory Panel gave regard to the :

- overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- relative value of the grant sought
- extent to which the grant contributes to biosecurity outcomes in northern Australia
- extent to which the grant contributes to supporting economic/business opportunities for Indigenous people
- risks to the Commonwealth.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

Criterion 1: Describe how your grant activities will contribute to biosecurity outcomes in northern Australia.

Criterion 2: Describe how the grant activities will support increased business, economic or employment opportunities for Indigenous people.

Criterion 3: Demonstrate that the applicant has the capability, capacity and resources to successfully undertake the grant activities.

Preferred applicants were identified, based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Strong responses to selection criterion

There was a strong interest in the program and applications were of a high standard. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the selection process above.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

Preferred applicants provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below.

Criterion 1

Describe how your grant activities will contribute to biosecurity outcomes in northern Australia:

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to describe how grant activities will contribute to biosecurity outcomes in northern Australia.	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">provided adequate information with evidence, including quantitative data or anecdotal evidence, to justify the importance and need of the proposed activity in the proposed locationprovided a clear description of benefits of the activity for biosecurity in the identified locationdemonstrated/described innovative projects with strong community linkages and legacy biosecurity outcomes.

Criterion 2

Describe how the grant activities will support increased business, economic or employment opportunities for Indigenous people:

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to describe how the grant activities will support increased business, economic or employment opportunities for Indigenous people.	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">provided a clear description of benefits of the activity for increased employment, business or economic opportunities for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peopledemonstrated/described a strong collaborative approach with legacy outcomes for Indigenous people.



Criterion 3

Demonstrate that the applicant has the capability, capacity and resources to successfully undertake the grant activities:

Strength	Example
<p>Strong applications were required to demonstrate the applicant has the capability, capacity and resources to successfully undertake the grant activities</p>	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ provided a draft project plan completed on the supplied template, including<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) a clear project descriptionb) clear aims, goals and intended outcomes were clearly linked to biosecurity and Indigenous business opportunityc) list of stakeholders to be involved (including their role in the project)d) a defined project scopee) a detailed schedule of activities (timeline with start and end dates)▪ provided a budget completed on the supplied template, with a detailed breakdown of proposed project costs and their components▪ completed a Risk Management template, accurately identifying risk owners and levels of risk, with supporting evidence (such as SOPs, WHS policies etc.) where appropriate▪ provided, where applicable, evidence of support from/consultation with consortium partners or Indigenous stakeholders or industry stakeholders.