



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Program

General Feedback

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Program grant opportunity.

Overview

The grant opportunity application period opened on 22 December 2022 and closed on 28 February 2023.

The grants will provide funding for projects which will make better use of existing timber supplies, add value to existing products, create new products, and/or reduce the industry's carbon footprint.

The grant opportunity is intended to support facilities to:

- better use the available wood supplies
- increase production efficiency
- add value to existing products
- create new products
- reduce the industry's carbon emissions.

The grants will enable wood processing facilities to use innovative technologies in their production to supply more of Australia's wood demands into the future.

The objectives of the program are to:

- fund privately owned wood processing facilities (for example, timber, pulp or wood fibre) to increase and/or diversify production capabilities or capacity. For example, the ability to process smaller logs or install new technology to create new products
- allow greater use of Australia's sustainably managed timber
- support the forestry and wood processing industries to continue to reduce their carbon footprint.

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- the adoption of smarter, more efficient practices in wood processing
 - increased onshore processing capabilities
 - retention or creation of regional jobs and support for regional communities.
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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 restricted competitive grant process. All assessed applications were considered by the Selection Advisory Panel (the 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 selection criteria
- how it compared to other applications
- whether it provided value with the relevant money.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

Criterion 1 – Project proposal: Describe your proposal and how it meets the objectives and outcomes of the program.

Criterion 2 – Benefits and efficiencies: Outline how the proposal will benefit your business and the community, particularly with regard to socioeconomic, environmental and social factors.

Criterion 3 – Value for money: Describe how your proposal represents value for money.

Criterion 4 – Experience: Describe your organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the proposal.

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.

Selection results

The grant round was highly competitive with 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.

The selected organisations 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: Project proposal

Describe your proposal and how it meets the objectives and outcomes of the program.

In addressing this criteria, applications must address the following points:

- describe the objectives of your proposal in detail such as:
 - what element of your business are you seeking to diversify or improve?
 - what (if any) equipment will be purchased?
 - how will it address the aim of your proposal?
- demonstrate how the project will achieve the objectives and intended outcomes of the grant opportunity
- how the proposal will future proof your business and contribute to improving the broader industry.

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to describe the objectives of their proposal including detail on the elements of their business which would be diversified or improved and full detail of equipment to be purchased.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the outline of their project included elements of their business they were seeking to improve or diversify▪ details of the equipment to be purchased
Strong applications were required to clearly set out how the proposed project met the overall objectives and intended outcomes of the grant opportunity.	Strong responses provided a description of how the project would achieve the objectives and intended outcomes of the grant opportunity. For example, how the project would demonstrate one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ allow for the adoption of smarter, more efficient practices in wood processing▪ increased onshore processing capabilities▪ support for regional communities.
Strong applications were required to describe how their proposed project would future proof their business and contribute to the improvement of the broader industry.	Strong responses included an outline of how their project would assist in supporting the long-term operation of their business and where they were able to describe the broader impacts on the industry.



Criterion 2: Benefits and efficiencies

Outline how the proposal will benefit your business and the community, particularly with regard to socioeconomic, environmental and social factors.

In addressing this criteria, applications must address the following points:

- detail how many jobs will be created or retained
- detail the benefits to your business gained by implementing this proposal, such as:
 - the financial benefit gained through increased efficiencies
 - value of new products produced
 - volume of increased production capability (for example, how much more wood can be processed? How much more of a log can be used?)
 - reductions in waste.

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to demonstrate how many jobs would be created or retained.	Strong responses clearly described the employment impacts of their proposal including the number of jobs created or retained.
Strong applications were required to describe the benefits to their business through the implementation of the project.	Strong responses clearly described the benefits to be realised to their business and supported by the provision of information such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the financial benefits realised through the efficiencies the project was anticipated to create▪ the value of the new product/s to be produced▪ the volume of increased production capability▪ details on waste reduction.



Criterion 3: Value for money

Describe how your proposal represents value for money.

In addressing this criteria, applications must address the following points:

- provide a budget (using the template) clearly identifying which items will be funded by the Commonwealth contribution (up to 40%) and which will be funded by the grantee contribution (at least 60%)
- describe and provide evidence of your ability to meet the grantee contribution (for example, bank statement, audited financial statement, evidence of a state based grant funding arrangement)
- describe and provide evidence of your long-term access to timber supply (for example, contracts, business relationship with established plantation).

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to demonstrate how their proposal provided value for money.	Strong responses set out a clear rationale for how value for money could be achieved.
Strong applications were required to provide a budget outlining the elements of the project including a breakdown of the Commonwealth (up to 40%) and grantee (at least 60%) contributions.	Strong responses included a detailed budget using the budget template which included fully itemised costings showing how the Commonwealth contribution would be spent and the breakdown of funding the grantee would provide as part of their contribution. Strong applications also provided a breakdown of funding over each financial year.
Strong applications were required to provide evidence of how they would meet their 60% grantee contribution.	Strong responses included evidence to support where the grantee would source the 60% grantee contribution component. This evidence could have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ audited financial statements▪ copies of bank statements▪ documented access to monies loaned from a financial institution or other source▪ state based grant funding arrangements.
Strong applications were required to demonstrate their long-term access to timber supply.	Strong responses provided evidence to demonstrate their long-term access to timber supply in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ contracts▪ business relationships with established plantations.



Criterion 4: Experience

Describe your organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the proposal.

In addressing this criteria, applications must address the following points:

- clearly describe how the proposal will be implemented, including associated governance arrangements. This must be accompanied by a project management plan (using the template)
- provide details of particular skills or experience personnel/project partners will bring to the project
- identify any risks associated with the proposal, and mitigation strategies to manage the risks (using the template).

Strength	Example
<p>Strong applications were required to describe the organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the proposal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ how it would be implemented▪ skills and experience of key personnel or project partners▪ identification of risks and associated mitigation strategies.	<p>Strong responses clearly described the organisation's ability to deliver the proposal through the provision of information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ experience and knowledge of key personnel▪ governance structures of the business – for example, board and management team▪ demonstrated ability of the organisation to deliver on projects▪ provision of a project plan using the template that set out key tasks and associated timeframes to achieve delivery of the project▪ provision of a risk management plan using the template which identified key risks impacting the delivery of the project and proposed mitigation strategies to address identified risks.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.