



Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Indigenous Rangers Biosecurity Program Ranger Capability Building Grants – Round 2.

Feedback for applicants

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

Overview

The grant opportunity opened on 5 December 2022 and closed on 8 February 2023 for applications. The grant opportunity received 20 applications out of 48 whom were eligible to apply for a grant. Following the Delegate's decision, 15 applications were selected for funding.

The Indigenous Rangers Biosecurity Program Ranger Capability Building Grants (the program) enables ranger organisations with existing biosecurity fee-for-service arrangements with DAFF to build the capability of their Indigenous rangers.

The objective of the program was to build on the existing capability of Indigenous Rangers who have undertaken biosecurity work in northern Australia.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- increase capacity of Indigenous Rangers to undertake current and future biosecurity fee-for-service activities for DAFF
- increase skills and capability of Indigenous Rangers to enhance their career pathways
- improve work health and safety of the work undertaken by Indigenous Rangers in remote areas.

Selection process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. The Hub provided information to DAFF for the final decision on whether an application did not meet the eligibility and/or compliance criteria.

DAFF assessed and considered all eligible and compliant applications through a restricted competitive grant process. The Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel) considered all assessed applications. The Panel, established by DAFF, comprised of subject matter experts. The Panel assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

Assessment of each application was based on merit and the following:

- how well it met the criteria
- how it compared to other applications
- whether it provided value with relevant money.

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

- the overall funds available to all eligible organisations
- evidence of the value of items sought to be funded for example, quotes for training and equipment
- the relevant Ranger group's current fee-for-service contract (activity types and value) as well as completion rates from previous activity plans
- the extent to which the grant contributes to increased capacity of Indigenous Rangers to undertake current and future biosecurity fee-for-service activities for DAFF
- the extent to which the grant contributes to increased skills and capability of Indigenous Rangers to enhance their career pathways
- the extent to which the grant contributes to improved work health and safety of the work undertaken by Indigenous Rangers in remote areas
- the risks to the Commonwealth.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

Criterion 1: Describe how the grant activities will contribute to maintaining or increasing the capability of the Ranger group/s to undertake biosecurity activities for DAFF

Criterion 2: Describe how the grant activities offer value for money, will be delivered to a high standard, and do not pose an unacceptable risk.

Identification of preferred applicants focused on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion and the alignment of items sought for funding.

The Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Selection results

Assessment of applications was according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the selection process above.

This feedback is 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 successful applicants provided strong responses to the selection criteria for supported items and supported items aligned strongly with the criteria and provided value for money. Some applications were partially funded, that is, not all items for which funding was sought by successful applicants were funded.

General feedback

Successful applicants proposed a range of capability building activities, which included the purchase of equipment, the procurement of training services, undertaking ranger exchanges and holding regional ranger forums. All activities put forward by the successful applicants were eligible, appropriate and met the 2 key assessment criteria. For each activity, the applicant demonstrated they could adequately manage any risks associated with the activity.

Unsuccessful applicants did not demonstrate how the grant activities would increase the capability of the ranger group to conduct biosecurity activities for DAFF, the relevant value for money in relation to grant activities and the management of risks associated with the activity.

Guidance for future grant applicants

The following guidance may assist applicants in completing an application for the program funding.

Addressing the assessment criteria

- Applicants are encouraged to address the assessment criterion clearly and concisely. It is important to consider how the requested grant activities satisfy the 2 key assessment criteria. It is important to provide:
 - strong links between the requested equipment and or training and increased capability to undertake biosecurity activities
 - sufficient information about the need for the equipment/training/activity and identify the improvement of work practices or safety through undertaking the activity
 - sufficient evidence to demonstrate which equipment and or training represents value for money
 - sufficient evidence to demonstrate which equipment and or training did not pose a Work Health and Safety risk by detailing the specifications of the equipment and/or training and/or providing details of a risk assessment.



Completion of application documents

- It is important to ensure the completion of all provided templates with sufficient detail to demonstrate how the grant activities link to the biosecurity activities requested by DAFF and how they will clearly benefit the ranger group.

Demonstrating value for money

- Providing one or more quotes as part of your application on the requested grant activities can help show the Panel which equipment and/or training represents value for money.

Requesting specific feedback on an unsuccessful application

If your application was unsuccessful, you can request feedback by contacting:

- DAFF at: tropicalbiosecurity@aff.gov.au; or
- The Community Grants Hub at: support@communitygrants.gov.au.