



Support Plantation Establishment 2023–24 (Round 1)

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has provided the following General Feedback for applicants of the Support Plantation Establishment 2023–24 grant opportunity.

Overview

The Support Plantation Establishment program runs over 4 years from 2023–24 to 2026–27. The funding supports the establishment of new long-rotation softwood and hardwood plantation forests and assists the sector to respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber resources. The program's key intended outcomes are to increase domestic timber supply, particularly construction and manufacturing timber resources, and to contribute to Australia's carbon emissions reduction commitments.

The application period for the first round opened on 21 June 2023 and closes on 24 January 2024. The grant opportunity has received 17 applications to date.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub undertook the screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against submitted applications in line with the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (guidelines). At the conclusion of the eligibility and compliance screening, the Community Grants Hub provided DAFF with the relevant information in order to make the final decision on whether an application did not meet the eligibility and compliance criteria.

DAFF considered applications through a demand driven grant process based on the eligibility criteria set out in the guidelines. Consideration of applications was based on the Plantation Management Plan, Plantation Management Plan endorsement coversheet, indicative project budget and other required attachments.

Where applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines, applicants were notified of the outcome in writing.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the program, assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the guidelines and outlined in the selection process above.

The selected organisations demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility and compliance requirements.



General feedback

This feedback is to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and provide guidance for completing applications for future grant opportunities.

Eligible entity types

To be eligible, applicants were required to be one of following entity types:

- Company
- Corporate State or Territory Entity
- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation
- Sole Trader
- Cooperative
- Partnership.

If applicants applied as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust, the Trustee must have an eligible entity type as listed above.

Applicants were required to have an Australian business number (ABN) which verified their eligible entity type.

Eligibility

Strong applications provided the required documentation outlined in the guidelines.

This included:

- a plantation management plan which met all the requirements detailed in the *Guidance for meeting the requirements of the Plantation Management Plan*, especially:
 - a map showing the location, size and dimensions of the areas to be planted, including a street address and geographic coordinates
 - detailed maps which clearly identified internal areas which will not be planted because they contain retained native vegetation, watercourses, and infrastructure such as roads and firebreaks
 - time-stamped satellite imagery demonstrating the land the new plantation will be established on has not been used as a plantation or native forest for the last 7 years
 - providing 2 clear time-stamped satellite images; one from 7 years prior to the time of application and one from as recently as possible and no later than 2 years prior to the time of application.
- a Plantation Management Plan Endorsement Coversheet, signed by a suitably qualified forestry professional which endorsed all of the project's requirements listed in the guidelines



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- an indicative budget which clearly demonstrated how grant funding and any financial co-contributions provided by the applicant would be spent over the project's length and
 - clear details on the applicant's co-contribution and its value. Applications commonly used the land the new plantation forests will be established on as their co-contribution.

Strong applications demonstrated the land value by providing a land valuation received within 5 years of the application's submission date, this included maps of the title, lot or land boundaries and the land size in hectares. Strong applications used these valuations and the land size figures to demonstrate the value of the land in the indicative project budget.

Individual feedback

Unsuccessful applicants have been provided with contact details to seek individual feedback, where appropriate.