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## Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition assistance Farm Business Transition Program Round 1

### Feedback for applicants

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The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Phase out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

### Overview

The application submission period opened on 7 October 2025 and closed on 1 December 2025

This grant opportunity aims to support sheep producers impacted by the phase out of live sheep exports by sea, by enabling a range of planning, professional and technical advice, application of research and development innovations and extension activities, and investment in on-farm infrastructure and improvements to increase the uptake of alternative farming systems and practices.

### Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the department's grant opportunity delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Hub undertook a preliminary assessment on all applications through an open competitive, grant process. Applications which underwent preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (panel) for deliberation.

The panel established by the department assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was, based on:

- meeting the compliance requirements outlined in the guidelines
  - meeting the eligibility requirements outline in the guidelines
  - how well the responses met the assessment criteria
  - the volume of applications received and the extent to which applications compared against other applications
  - the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments
  - whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
  - how the proposed activities aligned with the objectives and intended outcomes of the grant opportunity
  - identified risks around project delivery and the proposed mitigation strategies.
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## Selection Results

There was a good level of interest in the grant opportunity and applications were generally assessed as being of a sound standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria.

The Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, including where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

This general feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprised a strong application and what were quality responses to the assessment criteria.

### Criterion 1

#### Impact of the phase out on your business

Describe the past and future impacts of the cessation of the live sheep exports by sea trade on your business.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Explained the impact of the cessation of the trade on their business.
- Demonstrated the average proportion of business income derived from the live sheep exports by sea industry over the past 3 financial years.
- Described the impact on their future business of the cessation of the trade.

#### Strong applications:

- Clearly explained the impacts of the trade cessation, using income and livestock sales data to demonstrate their reliance on live sheep exports by sea. The applicant directly linked these impacts to the need for assistance to maintain the business's ongoing viability.
- Clearly demonstrated the average proportion of business income derived from the trade over the past 3 financial years using specific figures. The applicant provided a clear analysis of revenue dependency by showing the average proportion of income generated from live sheep exports by sea during this period.

### Criterion 2

#### Alignment of the proposed Grant Activity to program objectives and outcomes

Describe the proposed Grant Activity.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Provided detail on the project proposal.
- Explained how the project will integrate with the rest of their business.
- Demonstrated the impact it will have on their business and how it will assist transition their business away from reliance on the Trade.
- Described the project's potential for long-term sustainability and potential growth.

**Strong applications:**

- Clearly described the proposed project, outlining the key activities and methods while demonstrating how the work will address specific business challenges and lead to improved efficiency. The applicant also outlined a feasible plan, showing a strong alignment between the project and the grant's intended outcomes.
- Clearly explained how the project will integrate with the rest of their business by linking the proposed activities to existing operational practices and procedures. The applicant demonstrated how the proposed project will align with current workflows, complement ongoing processes, and strengthen overall business operations.
- Clearly demonstrated how their proposed activity and its implementation will create a measurable benefit for their business, outlining the specific improvements expected, clearly showing how it will strengthen resilience, diversify operations, or create new opportunities.

**Criterion 3****Project Budget and Delivery**

Describe the project costing and timeline for delivery.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Described how the elements of the Grant Activity will be obtained and delivered and the timeframe for the project.
- Detailed risks in delivery and to the projected benefits of the project for their business, and how risks will be managed.

**Strong applications:**

- Clearly described how each element of the Grant Activity will be sourced and delivered, along with a clear and achievable project timeframe. The applicant displayed good planning and a logical sequence of activities.
- Clearly identified the key risks that could affect the successful delivery of the project and explained the significance of the risks. The applicant also outlined practical and well considered mitigation strategies, demonstrating that they have planned ahead and are prepared to manage potential issues effectively. Provided quotes or detailed cost estimates to support the project budget and did not include ineligible items (for example, contingencies) in the project budget.
- Provided project budget tables that are GST exclusive.
- Planned project activities between the anticipated execution date of grant agreements and the end of the activity period.
- Only applied for eligible activities that have not been purchased yet. Reimbursement for expenditure already incurred is not eligible.

**Individual feedback**

Individual feedback will be provided for this grant opportunity. Applicants seeking individual feedback should submit requests to [LSPOgrants@aff.gov.au](mailto:LSPOgrants@aff.gov.au). Requests for individual feedback will only be accepted within 7 days of receipt of the outcome of your application. Feedback will be provided within 14 days of receipt of the request.