



Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition assistance: Livestock Transport Industry Transition Program Round 2

Feedback for applicants

Thank you for your interest in the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition assistance: Livestock Transport Industry Transition Program Round 2 grant opportunity. We appreciate the time and effort you put into your application.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the Department) is providing the following general feedback for grant applicants to support future grant applications.

Summary of the Grant Opportunity

Application period: opened 15 May 2026 and closed 13 July 2026.

Applications received: 13

Summary of the round: This program will provide support for livestock transport businesses, including those who have made investments in transportation of sheep and the delivery of essential export-related goods specifically for the live sheep export by sea trade, such as feed, bedding, water systems, veterinary supplies and handling equipment, will be eligible for assistance. The Livestock Transport Industry Transition Program (the program) will run over 2 years from 2025–26 to 2026–27.

Conflict of Interest Management for Assessment Staff

All Community Grants Hub and Departmental staff were required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest before participating in the assessment process. Where a conflict was identified, appropriate steps were taken to manage it, which could include:

- Excluding the team member from undertaking assessment related to the affected application(s).
- Assigning the application(s) to an alternate assessor.
- Documenting the conflict and the management action in accordance with the Department's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub reviewed all applications to confirm they met the eligibility and compliance requirements for the grant opportunity. This information was provided to the Department's Grant Opportunity Delegate, who made the final decision on whether each identified grant application met those requirements. Grant Applicants whose applications were identified as ineligible or non-compliant were notified of the outcome in writing by the Community Grants Hub.

Following completion of these checks, the Department undertook the preliminary assessment of all eligible and compliant applications through a Open Competitive grant process. This involved assessing applications against the published selection criteria and any additional requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Following the preliminary assessment, the Department convened a Selection Advisory Panel to make final recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

Before participating in the assessment process, all Selection Advisory Panel members were required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. No conflicts were identified.

In undertaking their role on the Selection Advisory Panel, panel members were required to consider:

- Whether applications met all eligibility and compliance requirements listed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- How well responses addressed the published assessment criteria.
- The overall quality of applications compared to others received.
- The completeness and relevance of supporting attachments.
- Whether the proposed project demonstrated value for money.
- How the proposed activities aligned with the objectives of the grant opportunity.
- Any risks identified and the strategies proposed to manage those risks.

Selection Results

There was a reasonable level of interest in this grant opportunity, and applications were generally assessed as being of a sound standard. The successful applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the published assessment criteria.

Applicants were notified of the outcome of their application in writing at the end of the selection period.

The following feedback is provided to assist grant applicants in understanding what comprised a strong application and what quality responses looked like against the requirements of the grant opportunity.

Criterion 1: Impact of the phase out on your business

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Explained how the cessation of the trade effected their business, including for example impacts on fleet utilisation, staffing levels, freight routes and fixed costs.
- Demonstrated the average proportion of their business income derived from the live sheep exports by sea industry.

What strong applications did well:

- Clearly explained the impacts of the cessation of the live sheep exports by sea trade, using data and relevant transport activity to the reliance on the trade. Successful applicants directly linked these impacts to the need for transition assistance to adapt business operations and ongoing viability.
- Clearly demonstrated the average portion of business income derived from the trade since 1 July 2020 using specific data. Successful applicants provide a clear analysis of revenue dependency and impacts on fleet utilisation, staffing levels and other business operations.

Criterion 2: Alignment of the proposed Grant activity to program objectives and outcomes

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Provided detail on the Grant Activity, including what will be delivered.
- Explained how the Grant Activity integrates with the existing business operations and how it will transition their business away from reliance on the trade.

- Where the funding is for a single large asset (such as a piece of equipment), Explained the asset's use, benefits and business context showing how it aligns to the program objectives.

What strong applications did well:

- 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. Successful applicants also outlined well defined objectives and a feasible plan, showing a strong alignment between the project and the intended grant 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. Successful applicants demonstrated how the proposed project will align with current workflows, complement ongoing processes, and strengthen overall business operations.
- Clearly described how the project will support long-term sustainability and future growth, showing how it will strengthen resilience, diversify operations, or create new opportunities.
- Where the funding was for a single large asset acquisition successful applicants clearly demonstrated how this asset will create a measurable benefit for their business, outlining the specific improvements expected and showing how these changes will meaningfully support a gradual and sustained transition away from reliance on the trade.

Criterion 3: Project Budget and Delivery

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Explained the different parts of the Grant Activity and how they were delivered, including where materials will be sourced from and equipment purchased.
- Provided a detailed budget for the Grant Activity (mandatory template provided).
- Provided a timeline showing when each stage of the Grant Activity would be completed.
- Detailed the main risks to delivering the Grant Activity and explained how they would manage them.

What strong applications did well:

- Clearly described how each element of the Grant Activity will be sourced and delivered, along with a clear and achievable project timeframe. Successful applicants 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.
- Utilised the mandatory budget template to articulate each budget line items and provided quotes or detailed costs estimates to support individual budget line items in excess of \$10,000 (GST exclusive).

Tips for Future Applications

- Start early and read the **Grant Opportunity Guidelines** carefully.
- Check eligibility and gather required evidence before drafting your application.
- Provide complete, relevant attachments and references.
- Address each assessment criterion directly and clearly.
- Explain how your proposed activities deliver outcomes and demonstrate **value for money**.
- Identify risks and outline strategies for managing them.

Next Steps

Individual feedback will **not** be provided for this grant opportunity.

If you would like to know about upcoming grants opportunities for funding, you can [register](#)¹ to receive email alerts with [GrantConnect](#)² the Australian Government's grants information system.

¹ <https://www.grants.gov.au/RegisteredUser/Register>

² <https://www.grants.gov.au/RegisteredUser/Login>