



Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition assistance: Farm Business Transition Program Round 2

Feedback for applicants

Thank you for your interest in the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition assistance: Farm Business 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 19 May 2026 and closed 22 July 2026.

Applications received: 216

Summary of the round: The Farm Business Transition Program (the program) will support sheep producers who are impacted by the trade ending in 2028, to prepare and adapt ahead of the transition through the provision of funding 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.

The program runs over 3 years from 2025–26 to 2027–28.

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 an 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. In cases where a conflict was identified, appropriate management strategies were applied to ensure the integrity of the process. These strategies included:

- Excluding the panel member from discussions or decisions related to the affected application(s).
- Reassigning the application(s) to an alternate assessor.
- Documenting the conflict and the management action in accordance with the Department's Conflict of Interest Policy.

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 strong interest in this grant opportunity, and applications were generally of a high 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 3: Project Budget and Delivery

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Explained the different parts of the Grant Activity and how they will be delivered, including where materials would 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 they have planned ahead and are prepared to manage potential issues effectively.

- Utilised the mandatory budget template to articulate budget line items and provided quotes or detailed cost 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>