

+ North Queensland Recovery and Resilience Grants (Stream 2) Scheme - Land Management

(North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough, 25 January - 14 February 2019)

Guidelines

1. About the scheme

The Australian Government's 'After the flood: A strategy for long-term recovery' ([the Strategy](#)) sets out a blueprint for a prosperous and secure future for North and North-West Queensland.

The Strategy aims to guide investment in actions that support the long-term recovery and prosperity of the affected communities, strengthen their preparedness for future challenges and help the regions adapt and transform in an ever-changing environment.

The Strategy has five strategic pillars, underpinned by 19 actions, which reflect what communities, businesses and people said were essential to ensure future prosperity and resilience of the flood-affected regions.

This scheme aligns with the *building prosperous enterprises* pillar which outlines the need to support pastoral businesses to recover and prosper through innovation, harnessing technology and adopting best management practices and business skills, including though investment in natural capital and business training to achieve long-term sustainability and profitability.

The objective of this scheme is to fund eligible projects that are underpinned by best practice and use evidence-based technology and infrastructure to enhance land management in the *eligible area*. This in turn should improve land condition through increased biodiversity, improved management of natural resources and ultimately increase the sustainability and viability of primary production enterprises in the *eligible area*. The scheme will achieve its objective by assisting eligible applicants to carry out projects which support improved land management practices.

The Scheme dates and timeframes have been determined by the National Partnership Agreement Steering Committee.

The scheme is being run on a competitive basis with projects selected based on project criteria set out in this guideline.

These guidelines contain information about the scheme including eligibility requirements, how to apply and your obligations as an applicant. Please read these guidelines before applying.



2. Assistance available

- 2.1 Grants of not less than **\$10,000** and up to **\$200,000** are available under the scheme.
- 2.2 Applicants must provide a financial or in-kind co-contribution equal to 50 per cent of the full project cost.
- 2.3 Grants will be awarded based on merit and are subject to the availability of funding and applying for a grant is no guarantee funding will be approved.

3. Required outcomes

- 3.1 Required outcomes for the scheme are:
 - a) the risk of adverse impacts of future disaster on the environment in the *eligible area* is minimised;
 - b) infrastructure is rebuilt (or built) to reduce to a reasonable degree the environmental, social and economic impact of future disasters on communities in the *eligible area*;
 - c) the environment operates to maintain or improve healthy biodiversity and ecosystems in the *eligible area*; and
 - d) environmental planning or benchmarking, including improving the understanding of environmental costs of the flood event to better enable management of environmental assets in the *eligible area*.

4. Applicant criteria

- 4.1 To be eligible for a grant under the scheme an applicant must be one of the following:
 - a) a *primary producer*;
 - b) a *small to medium sized business* (this includes primary production businesses);
 - c) a cooperative registered under the *Cooperatives Act 1997*;
 - d) an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cwlth);
 - e) an industry organisation;
 - f) a tertiary institution including universities in Queensland;
 - g) a local government under the *Local Government Act 2009* within the *eligible area*;
 - h) an incorporated not-for-profit, community or educational institution delivering natural resource management; and
 - i) a combination of the above including joint ventures and consortiums.
- 4.2 To be eligible for a rebate an applicant must also be:
 - a) a *land holder*; or
 - b) an applicant seeking a grant on behalf of a *land holder* e.g. a Natural Resource Management organisation.

4.3 To be eligible applicants must also:

- a) provide a financial or in-kind co-contribution of at least 50 per cent, and demonstrate the availability of funds or in-kind support (this may include leveraging funding from other local, state or Commonwealth programs);
- b) ensure co-contributions are used for eligible purposes;
- c) detail financial co-contributions which can include, but may not be limited to:
 - i. funds on hand including bank accounts, term deposits or other investments;
 - ii. finance raised from private or commercial sources on normal commercial credit terms; and
 - iii. finance raised from government concessional loan sources;
- d) be solely responsible for incurring the costs claimed in the application;
- e) have not previously received a grant for a substantially similar project activity.

4.4 Ineligible applications or eligible applications submitted by ineligible applicants will not be assessed against the project assessment criteria.

5. Project assessment criteria

5.1 Projects will be assessed competitively on the following criteria (equally weighted):

- a) **Public benefit**
 - i. The extent to which the project will help to improve the natural environment in the *eligible area* including:
 - how the natural environment will be improved (i.e. increased biodiversity);
 - how far reaching the impact will be (i.e. immediate neighbours).
- b) **Value for money**
 - i. The reasonableness of costs with regard to quality and quantity of deliverables.
- c) **Capability and capacity**
 - i. Demonstrated capability and capacity to successfully carry-out the project on time, on budget and to the required standard.
- d) **Project attributes**
 - i. Demonstration of how benefits will be sustained beyond the length of project funding, including increasing capacity, sharing knowledge and promoting strategies on natural resource management skills and land management techniques as they apply to flood risk management.
 - ii. Prospects for project success and long-term sustainability.
 - iii. The investment readiness of the project; that it will commence within 12 months of entering into a funding agreement.
 - iv. Appropriate planning, construction, zoning, environmental, heritage and/or native title approvals identified and are in place, or will be in place within six months of execution of a funding agreement for infrastructure related to land management.

- v. Appropriate monitoring and evaluation processes for the project's natural resource outcomes.
- vi. The assessed risk level of the project.
- vii. The type of entity applying with preference given to projects proposed by joint ventures and consortiums.

6. Information required

6.1 Applications should include the following documents, noting that supporting information should be commensurate with the size, scope and nature of the project:

- a) financial statements for the past two financial years;
- b) a project plan including details of:
 - i. how the project will provide public benefit;
 - ii. project scope, implementation methodology, timeframes, proposed co-contribution and costings;
 - iii. risks and mitigation strategies including risks associated with project delivery and ongoing management;
 - iv. relevant approvals associated with the project;
 - v. the proposed procurement process for major items;
 - vi. evidence to demonstrate capability and capacity to deliver the project;
 - vii. monitoring and evaluation processes for the project's natural resource outcomes.

7. How funding may be used

7.1 Grants may be used for activities including, but not limited to:

- a) capital expenditure on building, plant and equipment for the exclusive use of the project;
- b) increasing capacity, sharing knowledge and promoting strategies on natural resource management skills and land management techniques as they apply to flood risk management;
- c) implementing and/or showcasing successful land management techniques that improve the management of land;
- d) establishing demonstrations or trial sites that enable experimentation and/or the implementation of new or novel land management practices;
- e) new or used plant and equipment for the exclusive use of the project;
- f) consumables used for the project;
- g) salary and on-costs for staff and professionals when working solely on activities for the funded project.

8. How funding may not be used

8.1 Grants may not be used for the following activities:

- a) travel and accommodation (related to the applicant and their staff);
- b) funding a project which has already commenced;

- c) repairing or replacing existing capital infrastructure;
- d) making payments towards debt;
- e) purchasing land;
- f) undertaking training and paying professional costs which are not related to the eligible project activity being applied for;
- g) conducting feasibility studies;
- h) paying administration costs.

9. How to apply

- 9.1 To be considered for a grant you must complete an application form available on QRIDA's website at www.qrida.qld.gov.au and submit to QRIDA by email, post or fax before the application closing date.
- 9.2 Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.
- 9.3 QRIDA may request further information to help assess your application.
- 9.4 Goods or services being funded under the scheme should be purchased from properly accredited or qualified suppliers or contractors.
- 9.5 Suppliers or contractors of goods and services should not be employed by an entity owned or partially owned by the applicant.
- 9.6 Penalties may be applied under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (Qld) if any information provided in an application is found to be untrue, false or misleading. Applicants should be aware that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cwth).

10. How applications will be assessed and decided

- 10.1 Upon receiving applications, QRIDA will acknowledge receipt in writing and advise if any further information is required to commence assessment of the application.
- 10.2 Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis and there is no guarantee of approval at any stage of the assessment process.
- 10.3 In assessing applications QRIDA may seek expert or additional advice on any grant application.
- 10.4 Funding amounts offered will be determined by QRIDA and offers may not be to the full amount requested.
- 10.5 QRIDA will provide outcomes of the assessment process to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and may also provide copies of application information to this agency.
- 10.6 QRIDA will be the final decision maker on grant applications and make a grant offer in writing to approved applicants.

11. Funding arrangements

- 11.1 Approved applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with QRIDA. This agreement includes an agreed set of milestones and reporting requirements and a completion report.
- 11.2 Payments towards the project will be made to agreed milestones with the funding agreement.

11.3 Projects should commence within 90 days of entering into a funding agreement (unless agreed otherwise in writing by QRIDA). All projects must be completed, and available funding drawn by 1 December 2023.

11.4 To draw on approved grant, grant recipients may either:

- a) submit *official invoices* and QRIDA will pay the invoice amount to suppliers; or
- b) submit fully paid invoices and *official receipts* and QRIDA will reimburse the receipt amount to the grant recipient.

11.5 Grant recipients are able to make multiple requests to draw against the approved amount of monies until such time as the cumulative grant funding totals the grant amount approved.

12. Terms and conditions

12.1 Successful applicants will be required to agree to subsequent audits under the scheme to confirm that grant funding has been expended on approved purposes.

12.2 These guidelines may be reviewed or varied by the National Partnership Agreement Steering Committee at any time. Any revised guidelines will be published on QRIDA's website at www.qrida.qld.gov.au.

13. Your privacy

QRIDA's Privacy Policy available at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects, uses and discloses individuals' personal information.

14. More information

For more information on the Recovery and Resilience Grants (Stream 2) Scheme – Land Management contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au.

15. Public acknowledgement of Australian Government assistance

The announcement of successful projects under this Scheme will occur as an Australian Government media statement unless otherwise agreed by the Australian Government. In addition, prior agreement must be reached with the Australian Government on the nature and content of any subsequent events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to an eligible measure under the arrangements. This includes but is not limited to: media releases, events, social media, signage and advertising.

16. Evaluation and review

Evaluation and review activities will be undertaken by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency.

17. Definitions

Eligible area means the areas covered by the Queensland local government authorities of Burdekin Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Richmond Shire Council, Townsville City Council, Whitsunday Regional Council and Winton Shire Council.

Land holder means the following—

- a) a holder of land in the eligible area;
- b) if the land is freehold land—the registered owner of the land;

- c) if the land is the subject of a lease registered under the *Land Title Act 1994* (Qld) — the lessee of the land;
- d) if the land is the subject of a lease registered under the *Land Act 1994* (Qld) — the lessee of the land;
- e) if the land is a reserve—the trustee of the reserve;
- f) if a person has occupation rights in relation to the land under a licence or permit—the licensee or permittee.

Official invoice means an invoice including the name, address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the invoice and a description of each item to which the invoice relates which is clearly identifiable as being related to approved expenditure for the applicant

Official receipt means a receipt including the name and address and ABN (if applicable) of the entity that issued the receipt and a description of each item to which the receipt relates.

Primary producer means:

- a) a sole trader who spends the majority of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from a primary production enterprise; or
- b) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust who spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the primary production enterprise; or
- c) a sole trader who is able to demonstrate that they have the potential to spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the primary production enterprise; or
- d) in relation to a partnership, private company or trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, the partners in the partnership, shareholders in the company or beneficiaries of the trust are able to demonstrate that they have the potential to spend the majority of their labour on, and derive the majority of their income from, the primary production enterprise.

Primary production enterprise means a business that:

- a) is established under the legal structure of a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company;
- b) is carried on by a primary producer and trades in a primary production industry, including the agricultural, horticultural, grazing, pastoral, apicultural or aqua-cultural industries;
- c) undertakes all primary production aspects of the business wholly in Australia;
- d) is registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN) and is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- e) is not under external administration or bankruptcy;
- f) is not a public company under the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Small to medium sized business means a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company which holds an ABN, is registered for GST, employs fewer than 200 full time employees (or 200 full time equivalents) and is not operated by a public company. A small to medium sized business includes primary production businesses.