



Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers Program: Large Grants

Questions and Answers

1. What is the closing time and date for applications?

The application form must be submitted by **9:00 pm AEDT** on **6 October 2021**. It is recommended that you submit your application **well before the closing time and date**.

2. If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?

No, extensions will not be given.

If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date, the [late application policy](#) available on the [Community Grants Hub website](#) will apply.

3. How much funding is available for this program?

There is \$20 million available under the program, of which \$10 million in funding is available under this round.

This is a notional allocation; the Minister for Resources and Water reserves the right to change this allocation depending on the quality and quantity of grants received.

4. Is the funding ongoing?

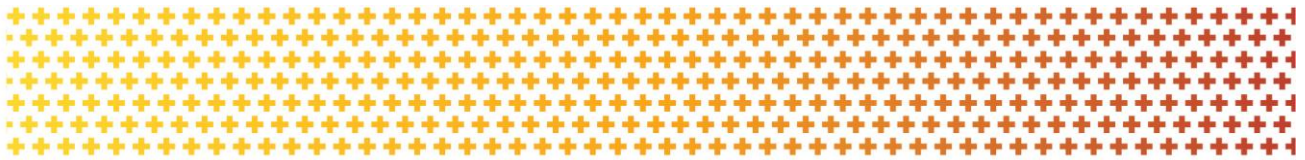
No, funding is only provided for the term of the grant. If ongoing upkeep and maintenance is required, you must outline in your application how you will fund this after the completion of the project.

5. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. To treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

6. Can someone from the Community Grants Hub help me with my application?

The Community Grants Hub can only provide general information and advice on completing your application. To maintain the fairness and integrity of the application process, applicants cannot be offered individual support or help with their applications.



7. How can I submit the application form?

The form is an online application form that you must submit electronically. The Community Grants Hub will not provide application forms or accept application forms for this grant opportunity by fax, email or through Australia Post unless otherwise stated in the grant opportunity documents.

8. Do character limits apply to my application?

Yes, the application form includes character limits – up to 5,000 characters (approximately 750 words) per assessment criterion. Please note, spaces are included in the character limit.

9. What are examples of infrastructure works applicants can undertake?

Applicants are able to undertake infrastructure works provided they improve ecological health of rivers and wetlands and have relevant approvals. Examples of infrastructure works include building mooring structures such as jetties, and access points such as boat ramps, to prevent bank erosion and building fishways to allow fish migration along waterways.

An extended list of eligible activities is available in **Appendix A** of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

10. Where can I read information about common issues with applications under Round 1?

There is general feedback on the [Community Grants Hub website](#). The document provides details on strong responses under Round 1 of the program, including criteria-specific feedback.

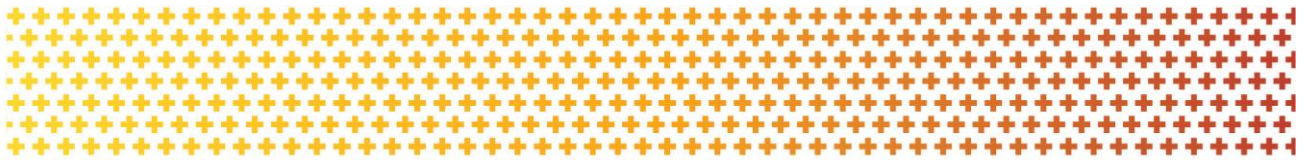
Applicants are encouraged to read the feedback from Round 1 before preparing an application.

11. Do I need to provide matching funding?

No, financial or in-kind contributions from you or a third party are not required. However, financial contributions will be highly regarded and should be clearly identified in the budget provided as part of your application.

12. What is a Financial Ratio Analysis and why do I need to complete one?

A Financial Ratio Analysis is a ratio assessment of an applicant's finances to determine the general financial risk of an organisation. This risk is part of the consideration undertaken by the Selection Advisory Panel and the decision maker when determining whether to provide a grant to an applicant.



13. I am a government entity. Am I required to complete the Financial Ratio Analysis?

No, only non-government entities are required to complete the Financial Ratio Analysis.

14. Can I submit an application as a consortium with an ineligible entity?

No. We have expanded the list of eligible organisations. As a result, eligible organisations cannot form a consortium with ineligible organisations.

15. Are tourism activities eligible under the program?

Tourism promotion is ineligible under the program. However, activities that may support increased tourism activity are eligible so long as they form part of a project that improves the ecological health of river and wetland sites in the Basin. This includes activities such as:

- management of access to sensitive areas, including installation of infrastructure, such as boardwalks, sand ladders, visitor access trails, gates and vehicle barriers
- interpretative signage, for example, to inform visitors about the ecological values of the site and on-ground actions undertaken.

16. Are community engagement and capacity building activities eligible under the program?

Yes, however the focus of the program is supporting practical, on-ground works.

Community engagement and capacity building activities are likely to be funded only if most of the grant funding is going to on-ground works and there is a clear connection between those on-ground works and the proposed activity. Please refer to section 6.5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

17. What is meant by a river in the guidelines? Does it have to be a named river?

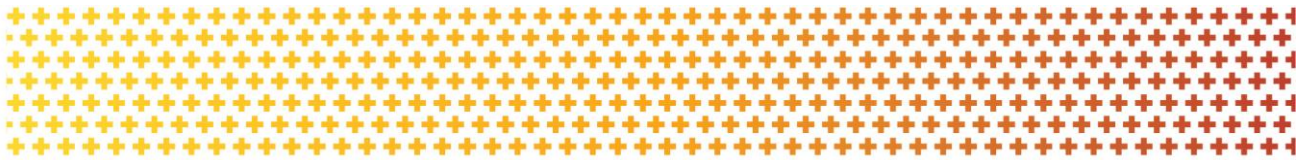
A river is any naturally occurring watercourse. It includes both named and unnamed watercourses, as well as watercourses referred to as streams, creeks, brooks, rivulets, and rills. It does not include man-made watercourses such as irrigation canals.

The water course may have permanent water, be intermittent or ephemeral.

18. What is included as an invasive species (pest plant and/or animal)?

An invasive species is any species which, as a result of human activities, occurs beyond its accepted normal distribution and threatens valued environmental, agricultural or other social resources by the damage it causes. This can include both introduced and native species.

For more information, you may wish to consider:



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- [Australian Weeds Strategy 2017 to 2027](#)
 - [Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017 to 2027](#)
 - [threat abatement plans](#) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPCB Act).

19. I have a wetland on my property which is not Ramsar listed. Can I apply for funding to protect and improve its ecology?

Yes, any wetland is eligible for funding. This recognises the important role wetlands play in the health of the Basin – they can reduce the impacts of floods, absorb pollutants and improve water quality. Wetlands also provide habitat for animals and plants and many contain a diverse range of species, including threatened species.

20. Do targeted threatened species and ecological communities and migratory species have to be listed under federal legislation?

Yes, as an Australian Government program, we are limited to funding projects that target [threatened species and ecological communities](#) and [migratory species](#) listed under EPCB Act.

We recognise that threatened species and ecological communities listed under state and territory legislation are likely to benefit from the same activities funded under this program, but they must not be the focus of the funded activities.

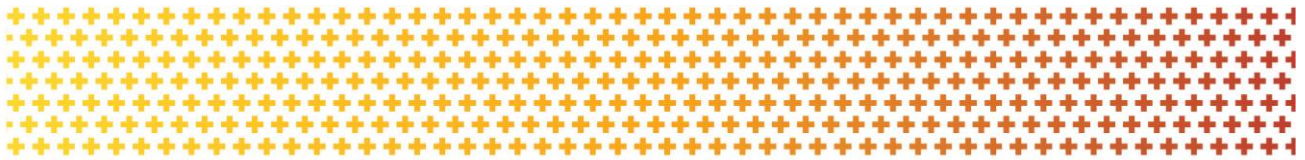
21. Where can I find species and ecological communities listed under federal legislation?

You can find the lists of threatened species and ecological communities and migratory species listed under the EPCB Act online at:

- [threatened fauna](#)
- [threatened flora](#)
- [threatened ecological communities](#)
- [migratory species](#).

22. I am a for-profit entity. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, for-profit entities are eligible to apply in order to encourage the maximum participation of landowners in the Murray–Darling Basin in the program. However, for-profit entities should not directly profit from funded activities (for example, purchasing goods or services from themselves at a profit).



23. Are farmers eligible to apply?

Yes, farmers and land managers in the Murray–Darling Basin are encouraged to apply.

For example, farmers might consider seeking funding for grazing exclusion fences to protect rivers and wetlands from stock, or control of pest plants and animals which are impacting rivers and wetlands.

24. My project is located outside the Murray–Darling Basin but will have benefits for the Basin. Is it eligible?

No, all projects must be entirely delivered in the Murray–Darling Basin.

25. What is considered a local business under Criterion 2?

We consider local businesses to be any business within 100 km of the project site and/or your main office, or the nearest business in remote areas.

26. Do I need to have all land holders signed up to a project before I apply?

No, however, you must explain in your application what you will do if you are unable to secure enough land holders to participate in your project.

27. What is meant by ‘shovel-ready’ and does my project have to be ‘shovel-ready’?

‘Shovel-ready’ is where planning and approvals are advanced enough for your project that with sufficient funding, delivery can begin within a very short time.

Whilst projects do not have to be ‘shovel-ready’, more developed projects will have a competitive advantage as they are more likely to be able to be delivered within the 12-month period.

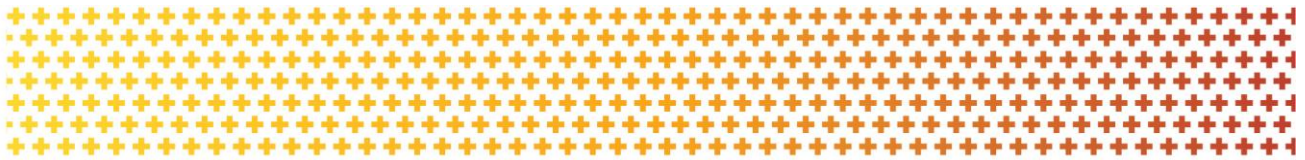
28. Where can I find out more about best-practice natural resource and land management?

We suggest approaching organisations such as Landcare or one of the 56 regional natural resource management organisations across Australia. A full list is available on the [National Landcare Program website](#).

You may also want to speak with your state agriculture or environment department.

29. How can I find Indigenous businesses to supply goods and services for my project?

[Supply Nation](#) provides a national directory of verified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.



30. How can I find Australian made products to use in my project?

[Australian Made](#) provides a directory of verified Australian made goods.

31. How do we go about obtaining permission to do works on waterways, for example, Crown land, Parks Vic etc.?

You are responsible for gaining all necessary permissions before undertaking project activities. Your local [regional natural resource management organisation](#) may be able to provide you with advice on this if you are unfamiliar with the process.

32. Can I apply for more than one grant in this round?

Yes, although you should be careful that your applications and project activities do not duplicate each other.

You may apply for funding for the same project activities if they are in different locations in the Murray–Darling Basin.

33. Can I apply for the same activities under different programs?

Yes, you can apply for grants for your project under any Commonwealth program, but if your applications are successful, you must choose either the Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers Program grant or the other Commonwealth grant.

34. If I was successful in Round 1, can I apply for this round or the large grants round?

Yes, however you should be careful that your applications do not duplicate each other or are located in different locations in the Murray–Darling Basin.

35. Is funding available for administration expenses?

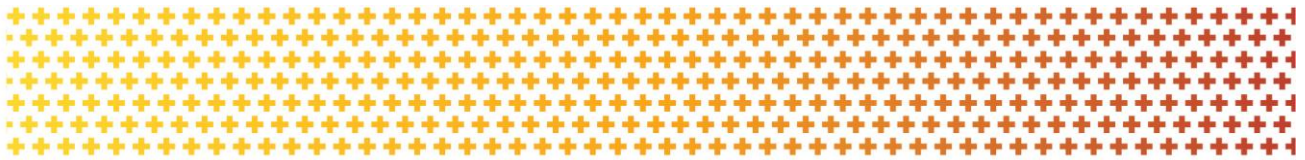
Yes, although this is limited to:

- administrative support and overheads additional to the normal day-to-day running costs of the organisation (maximum 10% of project costs)
- reporting on project progress and outcomes in the form advised by the department (maximum 5% of the project costs).

36. What happens if I am unable to complete my project in 12 months?

Projects must be completed within 12 months of execution of the grant agreement.

In some instances, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment may approve a further 12 months extension provided you can demonstrate there were factors outside your control which prevented you from completing the project (for example, extreme weather events).



37. We want to employ someone to work on the project. How can we make sure we are paying the correct wage and conditions?

The [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) can provide information and advice about Australia's workplace rights and rules, including applicable Awards.

38. What animal welfare requirements apply to projects involving the control of pest animals?

If your grant activities involve pest animals, you must adhere to relevant animal welfare legislation and requirements, and voluntary and/or mandatory Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for the management of relevant pest animals, as well as adhering to relevant federal and state/territory legislation and regulations.

If you are unfamiliar with these, [PestSmart](#) provides a useful starting point for best-practice information on how to plan, manage and improve pest animal control programs in Australia.

39. Where should I go for further information?

More detailed information about applying is available in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. If you have any other questions, please email your enquiries to support@communitygrants.gov.au. You should submit your questions by 29 September 2021.

Question and Answer added on 7 September 2021

40. Can I access the mapping tool outside of the application form?

Yes, applicants are able to access the [mapping tool](#) outside of the application form to map their project site.

After you have mapped your project site, you will need to create click on the 'Save Mapping' button, you will need to click on the 'Copy' button and paste the link into your application.

For additional information, please refer to the mapping guidance document located on the Murray–Darling Healthy Rivers [landing page](#).