

NSW SCP Business and Industry Round Application Form

Form Preview

About the grant

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Overview and Program Objectives

The \$160 million NSW Sustainable Communities Program (NSW SCP) is providing support for regional NSW communities, businesses and industries to help minimise the social and economic impacts of water recovery under the Murray-Darling Basin (Basin) Plan.

The NSW Sustainable Communities Program aims to strengthen NSW Basin communities by creating and supporting jobs, encouraging innovation, productivity and diversification, and delivering critical infrastructure that helps people to live and work locally.

The **\$50 million NSW Sustainable Communities Program Business and Industry Round** (the Program) will invest in projects that improve business and industry sustainability, retain and create local jobs and provide long-lasting benefits and economic growth for local communities and economies.

The Program is focused on real and positive outcomes by delivering opportunities that encourage business and industry growth, support workforce participation and enable economic development in NSW Basin communities exposed and vulnerable to the impacts of the Australian Government's Voluntary Water Purchase Program for the 450 GL.

Objectives

The objective of the Program is to support businesses, industry and jobs now and into the future in exposed and vulnerable NSW southern Basin communities. This includes opportunities that:

- Sustain and strengthen local businesses, including retaining jobs and creating new employment opportunities and improving workforce participation
- Increase local economic activity through innovation, skills development, productivity improvements, business growth, job creation, asset activation and local business opportunities
- Support existing businesses and industry to value-add or diversify their product offerings
- Enable the development of new and emerging industries and associated businesses and employment opportunities.

Grant Value

The total available Program funding amount is \$50 million.

Applicants can seek a grant amount between a minimum of **\$100,000** to a maximum of **\$5 million** (GST exclusive).

Online Information Webinar

The department will provide an online information webinar during the application period. The webinar will provide an overview of the program, key dates, and guidance on completing the application.

Please see the [Grants and Funding Finder website](#) for further details.

Program Guidelines

[NSW Sustainable Communities Program Business and Industry Round Guidelines](#)

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[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Grant Program Name

This field is read only.
The program this submission is in.

Instructions for Applicants

Before completing this application form, you should have read the **Program Guidelines**.

How to apply:

- all applications must be submitted via the SmartyGrants portal
- the Program is a single stage application process
- each application must consist of one project to be delivered in at least one eligible location
- applicants may submit more than one application. If submitting multiple applications, applicants will be prompted to rank the projects in order of their highest priority. This ranking may be considered by the Assessment Panel in determining recommendations for funding.

When completing your application:

- please complete all required fields and attach all required information. Guidance text is included to assist you in completing the application form
- you can save your progress and revisit the application form at any time prior to submitting
- please note that saving the application form does not 'submit' the form
- incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be considered
- applications cannot be reopened or amended after the closing date and time.

To submit your application, please first review your submission and ensure all attachments have been provided, then sign and click 'submit' in the Declarations section of your application.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email once an application has been submitted.

Please ensure that you save your application regularly to avoid losing information - Smartygrants has a timeout function and any information that is not saved prior to its timeout, will no longer be available.

Application Number

This field is read only.

What to Include

Each application must include the documents listed in this application form including:

- a clear project scope and description of activities
- a detailed project budget based on recent quotes
- a detailed project management plan

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- information on key personnel involved in project delivery
- a detailed risk management plan.

All applications must provide evidence of:

- co-contribution, cash and in-kind (if required)
- landowner consent if the land is not owned by the Applicant (if required)
- evidence regulatory approvals have been /or can be obtained without delaying the project completion timeframe (if required)
- evidence of valid public liability insurance
- evidence of financial viability
- evidence of local need for the project
- entity specific evidence (where applicable):
 - partnership deed/agreement to confirm partners and signatories for partnership entities
 - current Trust Deed confirming signatories for trust entities
 - proof of incorporation and/or not for profit status
- NSW Government compliant Short-Form Assessment for projects with a Total Project Cost exceeding \$10 million or;
- For projects with a total project cost greater than \$20 million a full Business Case consistent with the NSW Government Business Case Guidelines ([TPG24-29](#)).

Templates

A project management plan template is available here: [Project Management Plan Template](#)

The Short-form Assessment Template can be downloaded directly here: [Short-form Assessment Template](#)

A copy of a project budget template can be downloaded here: [Detailed Project Budget Template](#). You may use an existing budget template, but should ensure that it includes key information, including clearly distinguishing between grant funding and co-contributions, as required in the template.

Other sample project management templates and resources are also available here: [Project Management Toolkit](#)

Departmental Contact Details

Applicants can obtain support in preparing their applications. All enquiries should be sent to the program mailbox nswscp@dpiird.nsw.gov.au in the first instance and include the LGA that the project is located in. Enquiries will then be referred to the relevant DPIRD Economic Development Manager (where applicable).

Have you contacted the Department, one of its representatives or an Economic Development Manager with regards to this application? *

- Yes No

Relevant contact

Please list the name(s) of any Departmental contact(s) you have consulted during the preparation of this application.

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Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

Please list names if known.

We strongly encourage applicants to reach out for support in preparing their application.

For support and enquiries, please email the program mailbox nwscp@dpird.nsw.gov.au

Disclaimer

By submitting this application form, the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- submission of this application does not guarantee funding will be granted for any project, and the Department expressly reserves its right to accept or reject this application at its discretion
- it must bear the costs of preparing and submitting this application and the Department does not accept any liability for such costs, whether or not this application is ultimately accepted or rejected
- it has read the Funding Guidelines for the Program and has fully informed itself of the relevant program requirements.

Use of Information

By submitting this application form, the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- if this project application is successful, the relevant details of the project will be made public, including details such as the names of the organisation (Applicant) and any partnering organisation (state government agency or non-government organisation), project title, project description, location, anticipated time for completion and amount awarded
- the Department will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that any information received in or in respect of this application which is clearly marked 'Commercial-in-confidence' or 'Confidential' is treated as confidential, however, such documents will remain subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) (GIPA Act)
- in some circumstances the Department may release information contained in this application form and other relevant information in relation to this application in response to a request lodged under the GIPA Act or otherwise as required or permitted by law.

Privacy Notice

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By submitting this Application form, the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- the Department is required to comply with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) (the Privacy Act) and that any personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act) collected by the Department in relation to the program will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act and its privacy policy (available at: <https://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/privacy>)
- the information it provides to the Department in connection with this application will be collected and stored on a database and will only be used for the purposes for which it was collected (including, where necessary, being disclosed to other Government agencies in connection with the assessment of the merits of an application) or as otherwise permitted by the Privacy Act
- it has taken steps to ensure that any person whose personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act) is included in this application has consented to the fact that the Department and other Government agencies may be supplied with that personal information, and has been made aware of the purposes for which it has been collected and may be used.

Conflict of Interest

Applicants and any partner organisations (if relevant), and their respective officers and staff must declare any perceived, potential or real conflicts of interest in respect of the Program. Where there is a conflict of interest, applicants must put mitigation measures in place.

1.1. Are you and/or your officers and staff, or the officers and staff of any partner organisations (if relevant), aware of any perceived, potential, or real conflicts of interest in respect of this grant opportunity? *

Yes No

1.1.1. Please provide details of the conflict of interest including the individuals involved and the mitigation measures proposed or in place. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Eligibility Confirmation

Please ensure you have reviewed the applicant and project eligibility criteria in the Program Guidelines and considered how these criteria have been met.

Before starting this application, please review and declare this application will meet the following program eligibility criteria, including:

- it has been prepared by and is being submitted by an eligible applicant
- projects are located within one or more of the 12 eligible LGAs (Balranald, Berrigan, Carrathool, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Wentworth)

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- the project can start within **6 months of the commencement date of the funding deed** and be completed by 31 May 2029
- The application will identify all required approvals, outline their current status, and confirm they can be obtained within six months without delaying the project.
- that the amount of funding requested is between **\$100,000 and \$5 million** (GST exclusive)
- applicants will notify the Department if grant funding is secured from another source
- any funding already secured from the NSW Government, other state governments, or the Australian Government does not overlap with or pay for the same activities as this program.

1.2. I acknowledge and agree to the above and I confirm that the applicant and project is eligible according to the criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines *

Yes

Multiple applications

1.3. Are you submitting more than one application for this grant program? *

Yes

No

1.4. If submitting more than one application for this grant program, please indicate your priority ranking for this project: *

Must be a number.

1 = highest priority, 2 = second highest priority etc.

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Partnerships

If you are submitting a joint or partnership application, this section must be completed by the lead applicant that will take primary responsibility for delivering the project and entering into the funding agreement.

Please note: details of partner organisations will be requested later in the application.

Organisation Details

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

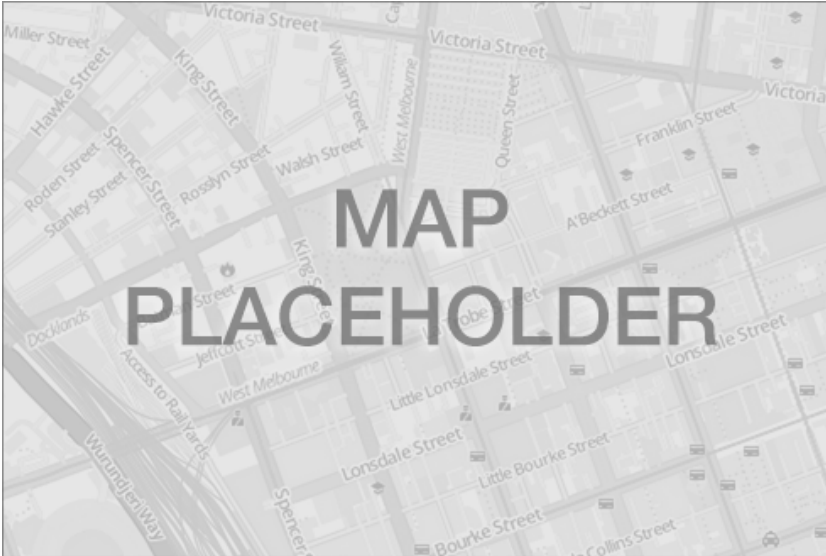
For organisations: please use the organisations full name. Make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation such as that with the ABR, ACNC or ATO.

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Applicant Primary Address

Address



Applicant Postal Address

Address

Applicant Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Applicant Email Address *

Must be an email address.

Applicant Website

Must be a URL.

Primary Contact Details

Primary Contact *

Title First Name Last Name

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This is the person we will correspond with about this grant.

Primary Contact Position *

e.g., Manager, Board Member or Fundraising Coordinator.

Primary Contact Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Primary Contact Other Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Primary Contact Email *

This is the address we will use to correspond with you about this grant.

Applicant Type

2.1. Please select the eligible applicant type that describes the organisation. *

- a company incorporated in Australia
- a legally binding partnership or trust
- a registered training organisation
- an incorporated association, public/private not-for-profit organisation or co-operative
- an Australian University or nationally accredited provider of tertiary education
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)
- a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC)
- an eligible Local Government organisation as set out in "Eligible Locations" in the program guidelines
- a NSW Joint Organisation of Councils and/or Regional Organisations of Councils.

If your application does not fall into the categories listed above, your application is not eligible for funding. Please stop completing this application form.

2.2. Please upload evidence of your organisation type selected above. *

Attach a file:

E.g. partnership/deed agreement to confirm partners, current Trust Deed confirming signatories for trust entities, proof of incorporation and/or not for profit status, a copy of constitutions, proof of incorporation, ACNC registration, valid Registration Approval Certificate for LALCs, registration certificates, ABN lookup details etc. that match the Organisation Name as entered above.

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grant funding, an applicant must meet all the following requirements:

1. demonstrate that the project will be delivered within one of the eligible LGAs

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- 2.be one of the eligible applicant types
- 3.must hold an Australian Business Number (ABN), Australian Company Number (ACN) or be registered under the *Associations Incorporations Act 2009*, or another act (e.g. the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)*)
- 4.be financially viable and able to demonstrate ongoing viability through provision of accounting statements (profit and loss, cash flow, balance sheet) from financial years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
- 5.hold or commit to obtaining public liability insurance of not less than \$20 million per occurrence or hold equivalent or better self-insurance to the satisfaction of the department, prior to executing a funding deed with the department
- 6.be a fit and proper person/legal entity
- 7.not be insolvent, bankrupt or subject to ongoing legal proceedings
- 8.declare in the application form that the applicant is not aware of any issues which could cause reputational or other risks to the NSW Government
- 9.have previous project delivery experience (applicants should ideally have previous project delivery experience, or have the capacity to engage a suitably qualified person/organisation with the experience to deliver the project)
- 10.provide evidence of capacity to make the minimum co-contribution if successful.

If an applicant's circumstances in relation to the above eligibility criteria change, the applicant should provide updated information by contacting the department using the [Enquiries/Getting Support](#) details.

Partnerships

Public/private partnerships are eligible to apply where the lead applicant is an eligible entity. If successful, the lead applicant will be solely responsible for the delivery of the project and must be willing to adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in the Funding Deed.

Projects that are developed and delivered in partnership with a NSW Government agency are eligible where the lead applicant meets all necessary eligibility requirements.

Competition Considerations

The provision of financial assistance to businesses may require consideration of the impact on local competition. Competition issues will be reviewed as part of the assessment process to avoid advantaging or disadvantaging businesses legitimately competing in the same immediate market.

Ineligible Applicants

Applicants will be assessed as ineligible if they cannot provide sufficient evidence to meet the requirements of the eligible applicant criteria.

The following will be considered as ineligible applicants for funding:

- individuals
- sole traders
- unincorporated associations
- businesses that are insolvent
- NSW Government agencies, state-owned corporations or statutory authorities.

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2.3. I confirm the applicant does not fall into any of the ineligible categories listed above: *

Yes

Does the applicant have an Australian Business Number (ABN)? *

Yes

No

PLEASE NOTE: To be eligible for grant funding under this program an applicant must hold a current ABN.

Applicant ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main business location	

Must be an ABN.

2.4. If applicable, please provide the applicant organisation ACN or AIN.

Enter Organisation ACN (Australian Company Number) or AIN (Association Incorporation Number).

2.5. Is the applicant organisation an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Corporation? *

Yes

No

2.5.1. Please provide an Indigenous Corporation Number (ICN), if available.

If an ICN is not available, please enter 'NA'.

Organisation Details

* indicates a required field

Public Liability Insurance

3.1. Does the applicant organisation hold or is willing to obtain public liability insurance of at least \$20 million prior to executing a funding deed with the department? *

Yes No No, but willing to obtain

Applicants are required to hold at least \$20 million per occurrence for public liability insurance, or equivalent or better self-insurance to the satisfaction of the department, in order to enter into a funding deed with the NSW Government.

3.1.1. Please provide evidence that the applicant organisation holds Public Liability Insurance. *

Attach a file:

Evidence may include a Certificate of Currency or equivalent in the organisations name..

Financial Viability and Reputational Risks

3.2. Is the applicant insolvent, bankrupt or subject to ongoing legal proceedings? *

Yes - please note the details below No

3.3. Is the applicant aware of any issues related to the application which could cause reputational or other risks to the NSW government? *

Yes - please note the details below No

3.3.1 Please outline the details of the financial status, legal proceedings or any other relevant concern or reputational risk. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

3.4. Please upload a copy of the organisation's accounting statements (profit and loss, cash flow, balance sheet) from financial years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 *

Attach a file:

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Please include Profit and Loss, Cash Flow, Balance Sheet. Please provide audited statements if they are available. If you are unable to provide completed Financial Statements, please attach a short document outlining why the statement is not available at the time of submitting an application. Financial statements must be for the lead organisation.

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3.5. If the financial statements do not appear to demonstrate financial viability, you may provide an explanation here.

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

3.6. Please select the response applicable to the applicant organisation: *

- To the best of my knowledge, I consider that the applicant organisation to be a fit and proper legal entity.
- To the best of my knowledge, I do not consider that the applicant organisation to be a fit and proper legal entity.

Joint Applications

3.7. Is the applicant applying on behalf of a partnership? *

- Yes No

Applications under a partnership or consortia arrangement should be submitted by the lead organisation. The arrangement should be formalised at the time of application. Press 'Add More' below for additional partnerships.

Partnership Organisation Details

Please detail each of the Partner Organisations involved in this application. Please 'Add more' as appropriate to ensure all partnership organisations are captured.

3.8.1 Partner Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Please use the organisations full name. Make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation such as that with the ABR, ACNC or ATO.

3.8.2 Partner Organisation ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity name	
ABN status	
Entity type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	

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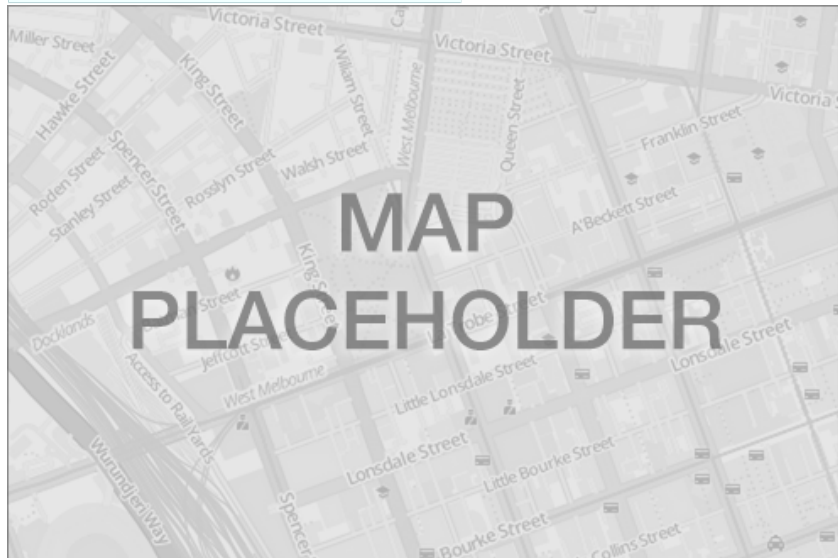
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Tax Concessions
Main business location

Must be an ABN.

3.8.3 Partner Organisation Address *

Address



Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

3.8.4. Please attach valid MOU or letter confirming that the arrangement with this organisation is valid and current. *

Attach a file:

The MOU or letter must be signed by an authorised person (e.g., Manager, CEO or Board Chair) and must include: name, position, signature and date. The document should outline each party's roles, responsibilities, and commitments, including governance, financial contributions, project delivery, risk management, and reporting obligations.

Project Details

* indicates a required field

Eligible Project / Activities

Applications must meet all the following requirements to be eligible:

- the project **must** be able to meet the stipulated project delivery timeframe requirements
- the project **must not** result in a substantive increase in irrigated water use over the life of the investment, (for example: require acquisition of a water licence for farming

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purposes or establishment / expansion of irrigated agriculture productive capacity that requires additional water to be purchased). The department may apply discretion where a project can demonstrate broad enduring industry benefit (e.g. consumptive water use required to undertake a drought resilient research & development project).

- the project **must not** only benefit private individuals or businesses without also generating broader economic benefits
- evidence of land ownership or consent and access agreement for the project **must be** provided as part of the application. If the applicant is not the owner of the land where the project will be located, landowner's consent and access agreements will be required as part of the application.
- a NSW Treasury compliant [Short-Form Assessment](#) **will be required** for projects with a Total Project Cost exceeding \$10 million or a Business Case where the Total Project Cost exceeds \$20 million. Applicants should refer to current NSW Government Business Case Guidelines ([TPG24-29](#)) and contact the department if required using the Enquiries/ Getting Support details.
- applications **must** identify all necessary approvals, advise the status, demonstrate that the approvals can be obtained within 6 months of being notified and that they have been factored into the overall project delivery timeframes.

Examples of eligible project types

The following are indicative examples and not an exhaustive list.

Project type

Examples

Business productivity and enhancement that supports job creation and/or retention

- - Expansion of existing or development of new facilities that contribute to an increase in capability and productivity.
 - Introduction of new technologies, innovations, plant and equipment, systems and processes to improve business growth.
 - Purchase and integration of more advanced technologies that will enhance the business's deliverables and competitiveness.
 - Project that results in increased access to existing and new export markets

Business and Industry Diversification

- - Transition new products or processes from pilot/prototype stage to full commercial operations
 - Value-add of local product, including initiatives such as a processing and packing facility

Industry Led Program

- - Industry specific program to improve business capability and sustainability
 - Program to assist businesses reach new domestic and international markets
 - Program to enhance local business resilience and ability to adapt to changing market conditions
 - Social enterprise to drive inclusive economic growth and build community resilience

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- Program to assist in overcoming workforce and skills shortages in eligible Basin communities

Asset Activation

- - Projects to revitalise or repurpose assets to enhance usage and increase local economic activity
 - Activation of culturally significant assets led by Aboriginal businesses and organisations

Innovation (including Research & Development*)

- - Research project with a focus on sustainability, water efficiency, and innovation that has the potential to lead to tangible benefits for growers and producers in eligible LGAs
 - Innovation Hub that delivers expert support to new and established business to grow new products and services from the region and to capture business opportunities emerging through renewable energy projects, agricultural production and circular economy

Projects must not duplicate or substitute for other Research Development programs such as [Commonwealth Research and Development Corporations \(RDCs\)](#).

Irrigated Water Use

The project **must not** result in a substantive increase in irrigated water use over the life of the investment (for example: require acquisition of a water licence for farming purposes or establishment / expansion of irrigated agriculture productive capacity that requires additional water to be purchased).

The department may apply discretion where a project can demonstrate broad enduring industry benefit (for example: consumptive water use required to undertake a drought resilient research & development project).

4.1. Will the project, over its life, result in a substantive increase in irrigated water use? *

Yes No

For example, if your project requires the acquisition of a water licence or requires additional water to be purchased, please tick 'Yes'.

4.1.1. If you have selected 'Yes' for Q4.1, please provide justification and outline how the project delivers broad, enduring industry benefit in a future with less water. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

(e.g. irrigation water use required to undertake a drought resilient research and development project).

Title *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 250 characters no more than 25 words.

Provide a title/name for your project. Your project title should be short but descriptive.

Brief description *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Describe the expected outcomes of the project, the key activities that will deliver these outcomes, and who will benefit from them.

Anticipated start date *

Must be a date.

Projects must not be retrospective and must start within 6 months of commencement of the funding deed.

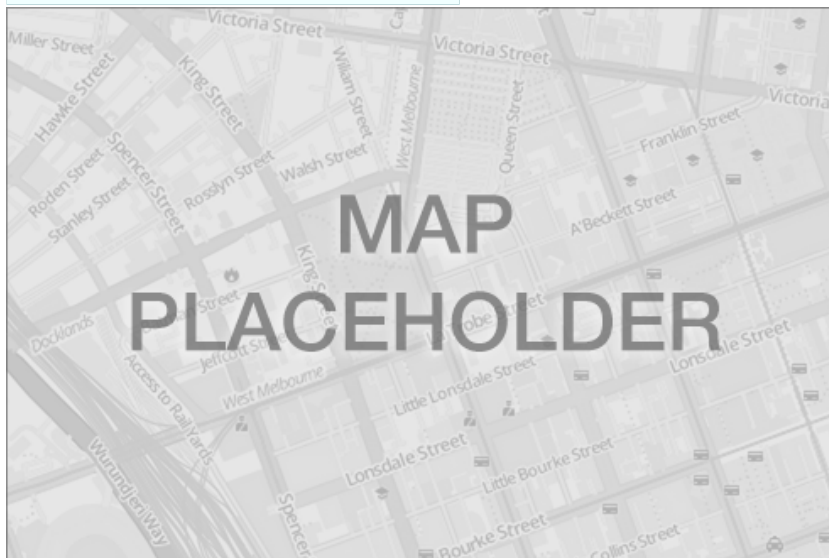
Anticipated end date *

Must be a date and no later than 31/5/2029.

Projects must be completed by 31 May 2029.

Primary location of your initiative

Address



Any, but at least one field is required. Country must be Australia

Primary location does not need to be a specific address, and can be postcode, suburb, state (NSW), etc.

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Primary Location State Electorate

Primary Location LGA

Anticipated start and end dates

Please check your anticipated start and end dates so that they fit within the timeframes of the program.

Projects must start within 6 months of the commencement date of the funding deed and be completed by 31 May 2029.

Landowners Consent

To be considered eligible, applications must include evidence of land ownership. If the applicant is not the owner of the land where the project will be located, landowners consent and an access agreement is required.

Landowners consent must be provided using the Landowners Consent Form template below.

[Landowners Consent Form Template](#)

4.2. Does the applicant organisation own the land where the project will be located? *

- Yes No

Project delivered on land not owned by the applicant must seek the land owners consent prior to project delivery.

4.3. Please provide evidence of landowner ownership, or consent and an access agreement. *

Attach a file:

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Eligible Location

Please note that the primary location of your initiative **MUST** be within one of the eligible NSW Basin Local Government Areas noted below.

4.4. Please select the eligible LGA your project will be located: *

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Balranald Shire Council | <input type="radio"/> Hay Shire Council |
| <input type="radio"/> Berrigan Shire Council | <input type="radio"/> Leeton Shire Council |
| <input type="radio"/> Carrathool Shire Council | <input type="radio"/> Murray River Council |
| <input type="radio"/> Edward River Council | <input type="radio"/> Murrumbidgee Council |
| <input type="radio"/> Federation Council | <input type="radio"/> Narrandera Shire Council |
| <input type="radio"/> Griffith City Council | <input type="radio"/> Wentworth Shire Council |

Refer to the 'Primary location of your initiative' box above. If your LGA is not listed as one of the 12 LGAs above, your project is not in an eligible location.

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Additional Location/s

4.5. Will this project be located at any additional locations? *

- Yes No

Please note that any additional locations MUST be within one of the eligible LGAs noted above.

4.5.1. Please list the full address of any additional project location/s. *

Project Category

4.6. Which of the following categories does your project fall under? *

- Business productivity and enhancement that supports job creation and/or retention
 Business and Industry Diversification
 Industry Led Program
 Asset Activation
 Innovation (including Research & Development)
 Other:

Please select all that apply.

4.7 Does this application duplicate or substitute for other Research & Development programs such as the Commonwealth Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)? *

- Yes No

4.7.1. Please provide any details of how this application duplicates or substitutes other Research & Development programs. *

Project Scope

4.8. Please provide a detailed description of your project scope. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

The project scope should include a brief summary of: 1. what activities you will do; 2. who will benefit from this initiative; 3. what outcomes you expect from your activities.

Project Focus and Beneficiaries

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The project **must not** only benefit private individuals or businesses without also generating broader economic benefits.

4.9. What are the primary areas of focus for this project/program? Please click on the text box and select from the dropdown menu. *

Click on 'Browse' and a dropdown menu will appear. You may select up to five items. You can select items from any area of the list - all have equal value. Only select sub-categories if you want to be more specific. In this question we want to know about the field of work (e.g. arts, sport, health), rather than the types of people it will affect (e.g. young people, refugees).

4.9.1 Who are the primary beneficiaries of this project/program?

No more than 5 choices may be selected.

Click on 'Browse' and a dropdown menu will appear. Please choose only the group/s that are at the very core of this project/program.

Project Milestones and Key Deliverables

Please detail the administrative stages or activities expected to be completed as part of the project.

If you would like add additional rows below the existing row, please click the 'Add More' button.

Milestone and Deliverables	Expected start date	Expected end date	Explanatory notes
Please provide detail for one Milestone per row. e.g. Planning; recruitment; evaluation. Add more rows if you want to list additional milestones. Please include detail of all Deliverables that are part of the Milestone.	Must not be retrospective. Must be a date.	Must be a date and no later than 31/5/2029.	Add notes if you need to provide more context.

Key Project Personnel

To demonstrate your capability to deliver this project, please provide details of the key project personnel who will actively work on the project. Include their specific roles, qualifications, and relevant experience as they relate to the proposed activities and outcomes.

Please include only one person per row. Add more rows if you want to list additional personnel.

Select 'maximise' when completing the table.

Name	Organisation	Role	Experience	CV/ Supporting document	Notes
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One per row. Add more rows if you want to list additional key project personnel.	Include both internal and external personnel.		Demonstrate project management experience, qualifications and capacity. Must be no more than 100 words.	Please provide a CV or any supporting documentation, where relevant.	Please provide any further details. Must be no more than 50 words.

Budget

* indicates a required field

Things to consider when requesting your funding

Total Project Cost: This is the entire cost of your project. This figure will include grant funding being requested, all cash co-contributions (cash that you or another party are investing in the project), all in-kind contributions and all other funding or income source that is contributing to the project. (Financial institution loans, capital raising etc)

Total Amount Requested: This figure is the total financial support you are requesting under this grant.

A copy of a project budget template can be downloaded here: [Detailed Project Budget Template](#). You may use an existing budget template, but should ensure that it includes key information, including clearly distinguishing between grant funding and co-contributions, as required in the template.

Eligible and Ineligible Project Costs

The project costs that you are seeking to fund under the program must support the objectives of the program.

Eligible project costs include those associated with the delivery of eligible projects. Costs may include:

- Up to 10% of costs from the grant funding requested towards project management and project assurance support, including employment of project managers either directly or through outsourcing to an external organisation
- Up to 25% of costs from the grant funding requested towards project contingency to allow for any cost escalation

Ineligible project costs cannot be claimed for funding, including:

- costs associated with the purchase of, or improvement to, irrigation infrastructure, assets or equipment
- costs associated with the acquisition of irrigation water, including purchase of water or water entitlements (except in instances where the department applies discretion e.g. where broad enduring region-wide benefit can be demonstrated).
- costs related to buying or upgrading non-fixed equipment, supplies or vehicles such as cars, trucks and vans, unless considered essential to the overall project delivery and are incidental costs to the project budget. For example, incidental non-fixed equipment, such as laptops or computers required for services or program delivery, may be funded where the item's useful life aligns with the project duration and the full cost can be depreciated within the project period
- financing, including debt financing and insurance

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- costs relating to depreciation of plant and equipment beyond the life of the project
- advertising costs, including marketing campaigns, unless directly linked to project delivery
- purchase of land or buildings
- funding for any ongoing staff or operational costs that are not directly related to the project or beyond the duration of the project
- costs that would be considered business-as-usual activities and operations (including costs associated with regular maintenance and repairs, recruiting employees, staff development and training)
- costs associated with early project planning and future planning, (i.e. business case development, economic/financial or feasibility analysis, strategies or plans)
- ongoing or recurrent funding that is required beyond the stated timeframe of the project
- retrospective project costs already incurred prior to the executed funding agreement
- no more than 50% of the funding request can be allocated to ineligible project costs
- costs already funded by insurance or other State or Australian Government programs
- project management and administration costs that exceed 10 per cent of the total funding requested; and/or
- project contingency costs that exceed 25 per cent of the total funding requested.

5.1. I confirm the budget does not include any of the above ineligible project costs. *

I confirm

GST Information

Councils: Please exclude GST when entering the Total Amount Requested. GST is not payable on grants due to payments being between government related entities.

Organisations registered for GST: Please exclude GST when entering the Total Amount Requested. GST will be paid to your organisation if successful, for each instalment.

Organisations not registered for GST: Please include GST when entering the Total Amount Requested. Please ensure that quotes you receive are inclusive of GST that will be charged to deliver the work.

5.2. Is the applicant organisation registered for GST? *

Yes

No

Please ensure the applicant's GST status matches the ABN results under Applicant Details.

Expenditure

Please list **all high-level expenditure items** that contribute to the **Total Project Cost**.

- All items must be **eligible under the program guidelines**.
- Total project management and project assurance costs must not exceed **10% of the total funding requested**, including employment of project managers either directly or through outsourcing to an external organisation.
- Total contingency and cost escalation allowances must not exceed **25% of the total funding requested**.
- If an expenditure item is funded by **both grant funding and co-contributions**, list it as **two separate line items** and clearly explain the funding split in the description or notes.

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- The total grant funding requested must be **between \$100,000 and \$5 million (GST exclusive)** to be eligible.
- Ensure the **file names of all quotes and estimates match the corresponding item descriptions** in the expenditure table.

This table should include all expenditure items that make up the total project cost. For example: grant funding, cash co-contributions and in-kind contributions.

Select 'maximise' when completing the table.

5.3. Expenditure description	Expenditure type	Funding source	Expenditure amount (ex. GST)	Notes	Please attach quotes or other evidence for the item.
		Other:	\$		
			Must be a dollar amount.	Must be no more than 20 words.	Please ensure uploaded documents and quotes are named per the expenditure description.

Detailed Project Budget

Applicants must provide a detailed and **realistic project budget** with recent quotes, and/or detailed cost estimates.

A copy of a project budget template can be downloaded here: [Detailed Project Budget Template](#)

You may use an existing budget template, but should ensure that it includes key information, including clearly distinguishing between grant funding and co-contributions, as required in the template.

5.3.1. Please attach a realistic project budget: *

Attach a file:

Total Project Cost *

This number/amount is calculated.

5.3.2. What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

Total Amount Requested *

Must be a dollar amount.

5.3.3. What is the total financial support you are requesting under this grant? This should match the total amount listed under 'This Grant' in the expenditure table above.

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Please note: total amount requested must be between \$100,000 and \$5 million (GST excl.)

Co-contribution

Co-contributions may include funding from other grant sources including other secured State or Australian Government grants. Applicants must provide information on the value of the grant, name of the grant and deliverables funded by the other grant. Grants not secured should not be relied on as co-contribution.

Evidence of the co-contribution and applicant entity type must be provided at the time of application.

5.4 Select the cash co-contribution requirement that applies to your organisation.

*

- Nil, but strongly encouraged (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations)
- A minimum of 25% of the total project cost (Local Government, Universities, Not-for-profit entities)
- A minimum of 50% of the total project cost (Businesses and all other applicants)

This requirement is determined by your applicant type (as selected earlier in the application at question 2.1).

Minimum Co-contribution Amount

Your minimum co-contribution amount based on the total project cost is:

This number/amount is calculated.

Minimum Co-contribution Amount

Your minimum co-contribution amount based on the total project cost is:

This number/amount is calculated.

Co-contribution information

Please provide details of your co-contributions.

Other grant funding

Co-contributions may include funding from other grant sources including other secured State or Australian Government grants. Applicants must provide information on the value of the grant, name of the grant and deliverables funded by the other grant. Grants not secured should not be relied on as co-contribution.

Where a project has received funding from the NSW, other State or Australian Government and any part of the project scope duplicates deliverables to be funded by this program, the project will be assessed as ineligible.

Please refer to the **program guidelines** for further information on co-contribution.

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If not providing a co-contribution, please enter \$0 in the Co-contribution Amount section before proceeding to complete the rest of the application.

Select 'maximise' when completing the table.

5.4.1 Co-contribution Description	Co-contribution Type	Co-contribution Amount	Status	Notes	Please upload evidence of co-contribution
		\$			
e.g. council funds, loan, donation.		Must be a dollar amount.		Must be no more than 100 words.	Evidence must demonstrate capacity to meet the co-contribution.

5.5. Total Applicant Cash co-contribution/s

This number/amount is calculated.

This is the sum of the total co-contribution amount(s) in the co-contribution table. Please ensure that your total application co-contribution complies with the minimum co-contribution requirements that applies to your organisation.

5.6. Cash Co-contribution %

This number/amount is calculated.

Percentage applicant contribution to Total Project Cost.

5.7. Is the applicant organisation able to provide the minimum required co-contribution for the project? *

Yes No

Refer to the applicant type and co-contribution requirement above to ensure your required percentage of requested funding is met.

5.7.1. Please outline the reasons why you should be considered for an exemption from the minimum co-contribution requirement

Word count:

If co-contribution is not required due to your entity type, and you do not wish to provide evidence, please enter 'not required' in this section.

5.7.2. Please upload any relevant evidence that supports an exemption from the minimum co-contribution requirement.

Attach a file:

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In-kind Contribution

In-kind contributions may be included in addition to the minimum financial contribution, however they cannot be provided in place of or as part of the required financial contribution.

Select 'maximise' when completing the table.

5.8. In-Kind Contribution Description	Contribution Amount (In-Kind)	Status	Notes	Please upload evidence of in-kind contribution amount
	\$			
	Must be a dollar amount.		Must be no more than 20 words.	

Budget Totals Confirmation

I confirm that the Total Amount Requested + Total Applicant Cash Co-contribution/s + In-kind Contributions = Total Project Cost. *

Yes

NSW Compliant Short Form Assessment - projects over \$10 million

As the total project cost exceeds \$10 million, you are required to submit a NSW Treasury compliant [Short-Form Assessment](#)

5.8.1. Please upload your completed NSW Treasury Short-Form Assessment Form: *

Attach a file:

NSW Government Business Case - projects over \$20 million

As the total project cost exceeds \$20 million, you are required to submit a Business Case.

Please refer to current NSW Government Business Case Guidelines ([TPG24-29](#)) and contact the department if required.

5.8.2. Please upload your completed Business Case: *

Attach a file:

Project Management, Administrative and Contingency Costs

Eligible project costs may include:

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- Up to 10% of costs from the grant funding requested towards project management and project assurance support, including employment of project managers either directly or through outsourcing to an external organisation
- Up to 25% of costs from the grant funding requested towards project contingency to allow for any cost escalation

These figures are NOT in addition to the total project costs outlined in the expenditure table but are a summary of what is included WITHIN the expenditure table.

5.9. Please enter the total project management and administrative cost being requested under this grant funding. *

Must be a dollar amount.

Applicant to complete (enter 0 if not required). Please add all items under 'Project Management' and 'Administrative' costs in the 'expenditure type' column of the table. *This must not total more than 10% of the Total Requested Funding*

5.9.1. Percentage of requested funding for project management and administration can be a maximum of 10%

This number/amount is calculated.

5.9.2. Please enter the total contingency cost being requested under this grant funding. *

Must be a dollar amount.

Applicant to complete (enter 0 if not required). Please add all items under 'Contingency' costs in the 'expenditure type' column of the table. *This must not total more than 25% of the Total Requested Funding*

5.9.3. Percentage of requested funding - project contingency can be a maximum of 25%

This number/amount is calculated.

Please note: project management and administrative costs exceed threshold.

Please review your budget as your total project management and administrative costs have exceeded 10% of the total grant funding requested.

Please note: contingency costs exceed threshold.

Please review your budget as your total contingency costs have exceeded 25% of the total grant funding requested.

Duplicative Funding

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Where you are using State or Australian Government funding, please provide details how this project does not duplicate any deliverables or project scope from what you are funded for elsewhere.

5.9.4. Does your project include potential for duplicative funding for any component of the project? *

Yes No

Activities that already have other funding sources (i.e. from other government grants).

5.9.5. Please provide details for any potential duplicative funding and specify the name of any other government grants you have applied for or received. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

5.9.6. Please attach funding deeds or other grant evidence that clearly shows deliverables and budget (including co-contributions). *

Attach a file:

Merit Assessment Criteria Overview

Merit Assessment Criteria Overview

Applications that have met the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the merit assessment criteria. There are 4 Merit Criteria:

- **Strategic Alignment (10%)**
- **Economic Benefit (30%)**
- **Deliverability, Feasibility and Affordability (30%)**
- **Local Viability (30%)**

Each criterion is weighted, and this weighting is used to calculate a score for the outcome of the merit-based assessment. This outcome is used to compare an application with other applications.

Merit Criteria - Strategic Alignment - 10%

* indicates a required field

Merit Criteria - Strategic Alignment - 10%

Your project will be assessed on the degree to which it demonstrates Strategic Alignment with:

- The objectives of the Program

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- Alignment of the project with local, regional and NSW strategic priorities and plans (such as under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program), including supporting existing regional development plans and aligning with Aboriginal priorities
- Alignment of the project with Australian Government's [Regional Investment Framework](#) and the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#), including the NSW specific, Priority Reform 5

Applicants are required to **demonstrate with evidence** the strategic alignment to the points above.

Demonstrate with evidence means providing examples within response fields or by providing supporting documents. Supporting documents uploaded should be referred to in the relevant applicant response and can be uploaded at the end of this page.

Alignment with Program Objectives

Program Purpose

The \$50 million NSW Sustainable Communities Program Business and Industry Round (the Program) will invest in projects that improve business and industry sustainability, retain and create local jobs and provide long lasting benefits and economic growth for local communities and economies.

This round is focused on real and positive outcomes by delivering opportunities that encourage business and industry growth, support workforce participation and enable economic development in NSW Basin communities exposed and vulnerable to the impacts of the Australian Government's Voluntary Water Purchase Program for the 450 GL.

Program Objective

The objective of the Program is to support businesses, industry and jobs now and into the future in exposed and vulnerable NSW southern Basin communities.

7.1. Please select the objectives which your project is aligned to (select one or more). *

- Sustain and strengthen local businesses, including retaining jobs and creating new employment opportunities and improving workforce participation
- Increase local economic activity through innovation, skills development, productivity improvements, business growth, job creation, asset activation and local business opportunities
- Support existing businesses and industry to value-add or diversify their product offerings
- Enable the development of new and emerging industries and associated businesses and employment opportunities

Applicants can select more than one opportunity.

7.2. Please detail how your project aligns with your selected objectives. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 400 words.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities

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Your project should also align with current local, regional, NSW and Australian Government strategic priorities. This includes the [Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program](#), including supporting existing regional development strategies and plans and aligning with Aboriginal priorities.

7.3. Please detail how your project aligns with local, regional and NSW strategic priorities and plans (such as under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program) including supporting existing regional development plans and aligning with Aboriginal priorities. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Your response should detail how the project aligns with current strategies, including references to specific aspects of existing plans including local (such as Community Strategic Plans, Economic Development Strategies) and regional plans.

Alignment with Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The NSW *Sustainable Communities Program* is funded by the Australian Government, which means that program funding commitments must align with the [Regional Investment Framework](#), including the **Priority Focus Areas**:

- Investing in People
- Investing in Places
- Investing in Services
- Investing in Industries and Local Economies

Please detail how your project aligns with the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#), including the NSW specific, Priority Reform 5. NSW has developed a fifth priority reform on employment, business growth and economic prosperity.

7.4. Please detail how your project aligns with the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including the NSW specific Priority Reform 5. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Your response should reference the Framework including priority focus areas and how your project aligns with these.

Strategic Alignment Evidence

7.5. Please provide any relevant documentation to support your responses to questions relating to Strategic Alignment (for example, copies of the relevant policies)

Attach a file:

Merit Criteria - Economic Benefit - 30%

* indicates a required field

Your project will be assessed on the **degree to which it is able to deliver measurable economic benefits in the LGA through:**

- - job retention and creation
 - developing more skilled workforces and broadening opportunities for workforce participation
 - strengthening domestic economic capabilities including through stronger local supply chains
 - enhancing economic diversification and / or resilience

In addition, your project will be assessed on the **degree to which it is able to include local procurement approaches (if applicable)** e.g. from within the eligible 12 LGAs.

Measurable Economic Benefits

8.1. Which of the following measurable economic benefits will your project deliver in your selected LGA? *

- Job retention and creation
- Developing more skilled workforces and broadening opportunities for workforce participation
- Strengthening domestic economic capabilities including through stronger local supply chains
- Enhancing economic diversification and / or resilience

You may select more than one economic benefit.

8.2. Please demonstrate how your project **delivers measurable economic benefits** in your selected LGA.

Refer to the **four economic benefits identified** above by using these as headings in your response. If one or more of the economic benefits do not apply to your project, include the heading in your response and note 'not applicable'.

If referencing a business case, strategy or other relevant documentation, please include the section and/or page numbers in your response.

*

Job retention and creation

(noting further information on job retention and creation can also be included in the next section)

Developing more skilled workforces and broadening opportunities for workforce participation

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Strengthening domestic economic capabilities including through stronger local supply chains

Enhancing economic diversification and / or resilience

Word count:

Must be no more than 800 words.

Include any relevant data, community feedback, or evidence of need e.g. unemployment rate, job ads, local evidence etc.

Job Retention and Creation

Please provide further information on:

- the number of staff currently employed - Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
- the number of jobs you anticipate your project will create
- the number of jobs you anticipate your project will retain
- salary information, and
- the status of the jobs (ongoing or temporary).

If successful, the applicant will be required to provide details on existing, retained and created positions.

Jobs Created

8.3. Existing FTE *

Must be a number.

Please provide the current number of existing FTE positions

8.4. Expected FTE after grant *

Must be a number.

Please provide the expected number of FTE positions after the grant. If the number of FTE remains the same, enter the same number as 'Existing FTE'.

8.5. For how many years will these jobs be sustained? *

Must be a number.

8.6. Are these jobs located within the local LGA? *

- Yes
 No
 Mostly

8.7. What is the average annual salary of new roles (\$ per year)? *

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Must be a dollar amount.

8.8. Temporary or ongoing employment status *

- Temporary
- Ongoing
- Mix of temporary and ongoing

8.9 Please detail how the grant will create jobs, and provide any notes / assumptions *

Please provide any assumptions or context relevant to the job estimates.

Jobs Retained

8.9.1 How many jobs will be retained as a result of this project? *

Must be a number.

8.9.2. How many ongoing FTE jobs would be lost without this project? *

Must be a number.

If this project was not funded, include the number of jobs that would be lost.

8.9.3. What is the average salary or wages of retained job(s) (\$ per year) *

Must be a dollar amount.

8.9.4. For how many years will these jobs be retained? *

Must be a number.

8.9.5. Please detail how the grant will retain jobs, and provide any notes / assumptions *

Please provide any assumptions or context relevant to the job estimates.

8.9.6. If applicable, please upload any supporting evidence of economic benefit

Attach a file:

Local Procurement

8.9.7. Include details of how you will engage local suppliers in your project *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Include details of local suppliers, workforce strategies from the local area, identify clearly where these are from the eligible LGAs.

8.9.8. If applicable, please upload any supporting evidence of local procurement

Attach a file:

A maximum of 5 files may be attached.

For example: procurement plans, local supplier engagement strategy, evidence of quotes from local businesses, MOU's or partnership agreements, workforce development plans.

Merit Criteria - Deliverability, Feasibility and Affordability - 30%

* indicates a required field

Merit Criteria - Deliverability, Feasibility and Affordability

Your project will be assessed on its deliverability, feasibility and affordability via the following information:

- Comprehensive project proposal or business case including the following:
 - project budget with recent quotes, and/or detailed cost estimates
 - project management plan
 - risk management plan
 - proposed operating model
 - demonstration of project management experience and capacity
- Confirmation that all appropriate approvals are in place, or can be secured within 6 months of the grant application outcome notification. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - development applications
 - land owners consent
 - environmental approvals
- Accessibility and inclusivity considerations within the project design and scope.

Value for Money

Applicants are required to **demonstrate with evidence** how they will contribute to delivering value for money.

Demonstrate with evidence means providing examples in the applicant response or by providing supporting documents. Supporting documents can be uploaded within the relevant sections of the page and should be referred to in the relevant applicant response.

9.1. How does your project demonstrate value for money? What steps have you taken to ensure the project is delivered efficiently, within budget, and achieves

its intended outcome? Why is this approach the most economical and impactful compared to alternative options? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 400 words.

Outline your delivery approach, including procurement strategies, project management, and use of existing resources or infrastructure, any options considered and why your chosen approach offers the best return on investment.

9.2. What governance and financial controls are in place to ensure the ethical use of grant funds? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

E.g. governance policies, financial management policies, audit results

9.3. Please outline the approvals, legislative requirements, policies relevant to your project, and describe the measures you will implement to ensure compliance throughout its duration *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

List relevant codes of practice, registrations, licences, safety, environmental, or community engagement obligations.

9.4. Please upload any evidence supporting your responses to the questions above.

Attach a file:

A maximum of 5 files may be attached.

Project Management Plan

Please upload your Project Management Plan here. You may use the template below, or use your own template, but should ensure that it includes key project information and schedule as contained within the sample template.

[Project Management Plan Template](#)

9.5. Please upload a copy of the Project Management Plan *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 5 files may be attached.

Risk Management Plan

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Provide a risk management plan outlining potential risks to the project and how they will be managed. This helps demonstrate that you have considered challenges and have strategies in place to ensure successful delivery.

You can upload your own template, or for sample templates, please refer to the downloads contained within the Planning Module of the [Project Management Toolkit](#)

9.6. Please upload a detailed risk management plan with risk mitigation strategies . *

Attach a file:

Development Approval Status

9.7. Is a Development Application required? If so, what is the current status of your Development Application? *

- Approved (Please attach below)
- Submitted, awaiting determination
- Documentation is being prepared
- Not started
- Not Applicable

If a Development Application is not required, please click 'Not Applicable'.

9.7.1. Please attach your Development Approval and/or evidence relating to the status of Development Approvals.

Attach a file:

9.7.2. Please provide any further information such as an indicative timeline on when your Development Approval is expected? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

If your DA is approved, and no further information is available, please enter 'no further information, DA approved' and attach your DA above

Project Approvals

9.8. Does your project require any other planning or regulatory approvals or other endorsements? *

- Yes
- No

Examples of regulatory approvals may include development applications, environmental, heritage, or other relevant local regulatory approvals.

9.8.1. If yes, please list the details and current status of each approval *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

9.8.2 If applicable, please upload any supporting evidence of approvals or other endorsements

Attach a file:

Proposed Operating Model

Following project completion who will be responsible for the asset, ownership, management and ongoing cost responsibility and how will it be operated in a financially sustainable way.

9.9. What is the proposed operating model for this project and how is it feasible and sustainable? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

9.9.1. If available please upload supporting evidence for your proposed operating model.

Attach a file:

A maximum of 5 files may be attached.

Project Management Experience and Capacity

Your response should describe projects previously delivered by your organisation or the engaged Project Manager, including the project value, delivery location, duration, and the final outcomes achieved.

9.9.2. Please demonstrate previous project management experience and capacity.

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

9.9.3. If available, please provide any relevant documentation to support your response to this question relating to previous project management experience.

Attach a file:

Accessibility and Inclusion

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Accessibility refers to ensuring that physical, digital, and operational aspects of infrastructure are usable by everyone, including people with disability or mobility challenges, without barriers. This can include:

- Compliance with Disability Standards for Access to Premises and relevant building codes.
- Incorporating universal design principles (e.g. ramps, tactile indicators, accessible toilets, hearing loops).
- Providing clear signage, wayfinding, and inclusive technology so that infrastructure can be accessed independently, safely, and with dignity.
- Aligning with local Disability Inclusion Action Plans and NSW accessibility legislation.

Inclusion refers to designing and delivering infrastructure that enables all members of the community, regardless of cultural background, ability, age, or socioeconomic status, to participate fully and equitably in its use and benefits. This can involve:

- Considering the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people with disability.
- Creating spaces that foster social, cultural, and economic participation.
- Engaging communities in planning and decision-making to ensure infrastructure reflects diverse needs and promotes a sense of belonging.

Your project design and delivery should demonstrate consideration of accessibility and inclusivity, incorporating Principles of Universal Design, including alignment with the local council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), and other relevant inclusion frameworks (such as Reconciliation Action Plans, LGBTQIA+ inclusion strategies, multicultural action plans).

9.9.4. How have you incorporated accessibility and inclusivity into the project design and scope? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

9.9.5 If available, please provide any relevant documentation to support your response to this question relating to accessibility and inclusion

Attach a file:

Merit Criteria - Local Viability - 30%

* indicates a required field

Merit Criteria - Local Viability

Your project will be assessed on the **degree to which it is able to demonstrate:**

- the extent to which the project responds to unmet local and/or regional demand
- current and ongoing support from within the LGA

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- intended benefits and outcomes of the project including demonstrating how the public benefits of the project will contribute to offsetting the local or regional socio-economic impacts of water purchasing

10.1. What problem or opportunity does the project address? Explain why this project is the most effective response, including any alternatives considered. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Your response should show how the project addresses a gap, challenge or opportunity and outline why this project is the most effective response.

10.2. Please explain why the project location has been chosen from within the LGA that makes it a viable and sustainable project location? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

For example: explain why this location was chosen (e.g. community need, accessibility, existing infrastructure) and why it is the most viable and sustainable option (e.g. cost-effective, strong partnerships, ongoing funding, long-term community and economic benefits).

10.3. Please upload any relevant evidence that supports your answers to the questions above.

Attach a file:

E.g. studies or surveys that you have undertaken or other information that demonstrates the need for change.

Community Support

Community support means that people, groups, or organisations affected by or benefiting from the project have shown endorsement or interest in the project.

10.4. Does this project have community support? *

Yes No

Evidence of community support is highly regarded as projects with community involvement are more likely to succeed.

10.5. Please provide an explanation of your answer above, and detail any evidence of community support, if available. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

If you believe there is community support but this has not yet been confirmed, please detail your rationale.

10.6. Please upload evidence of community support (as applicable).

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Attach a file:

A maximum of 5 files can be attached. Examples may include letters of support, consultation evidence, meeting minutes, social media posts and polls, news articles, regional planning documents, community strategic plans, destination management plans, survey results etc. Please combine documents where possible.

Stakeholders

Please detail all other stakeholders interested or impacted by your project. Explain their interest or impact and explain the engagement strategy you will have with that stakeholder.

You can keep this high level (e.g. quarterly meetings / regular email communication) rather than identifying each individual meeting or communication.

Please include only one stakeholder per row. Add more rows if you want to list additional stakeholders.

10.7. Stakeholder	Interest or impact	Engagement strategy
Stakeholders may be key community members, other organisations, other funders, etc.	Please explain why the stakeholder is interested in the outcomes of the project, or how they may be impacted.	Please detail how you will reach out to the stakeholder before, during and after the project.

Impacts of water purchasing

10.8. How will the project's intended benefits and outcomes offset local or regional socio-economic impacts of water purchasing? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

If applicable please upload evidence relevant to this question.

Attach a file:

A maximum of 5 files may be attached.

Examples may include studies, data, reports or other information relevant to your project.

Outcomes

* indicates a required field

Outcomes

Please tell us about the main outcomes you expect to result from your project. Outcomes are the changes you expect to occur for businesses, workers, industries, communities, assets or regions as a result of the project.

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Please select only the outcomes that are most relevant to your project. If successful, you may be required to monitor and report against the outcomes you select throughout project delivery and at acquittal. Do not select outcomes unless they are expected to be delivered by your project and can be reasonably supported with evidence.

Business, industry investment and expected outcomes

11.1 How will you invest to improve your business and/or industry?

- Technology, Systems and Process Improvements
- New or Upgraded Facilities, Plant or Equipment
- Supply Chain Connectivity Enhancements
- Workforce and Skills Development
- Business Capacity Expansion
- Innovation, Research & Development and Product Development
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Asset Activation and Revitalisation
- Sustainability and Circular Economy Initiatives
- Other:

Select all that apply. This question is about the type of investment or activity your project will undertake. Please select all actions that are relevant to your project.

Productivity and Cost Outcomes

11.2. Select all that apply

- Reduced operational costs or overheads
- Increased production capacity or business productivity
- Other:

Business Growth and Market Outcomes

11.3. Select all that apply

- Improvement of existing products or services offerings
- Introduction of new services, products, or delivery channels
- Diversification into new industry sectors
- Access to new domestic markets
- Access to new international/export markets
- Improved ability to scale or respond to market opportunities
- Other:

Workforce and Capability Outcomes

11.4. Select all that apply

- Improved workforce capability (training, skills uplift)
- New jobs created
- Jobs retained
- Improved ability to attract or retain skilled workers

Other:

Innovation and Technology Outcomes

11.5. Select all that apply

- Adoption of new technology, systems or processes
- Commercialisation or scaling of new products/solutions
- Other:

Supply Chain and Infrastructure Outcomes

11.6. Select all that apply

- Improved supply chain efficiency or reliability
- Improved logistics, freight or distribution capability
- Strengthened regional supply chain resilience
- Better utilisation or activation of business assets
- Other:

Environmental, Social, Governance and Sustainability Outcomes

11.7. Select all that apply

- Improved environmental performance (energy, water, waste)
- Improved social outcomes (inclusive employment, community benefit)
- Improved governance, risk management or compliance
- Increased participation in circular-economy initiatives (improved resource recovery)
- Other:

Business Resilience and Diversification Outcomes

11.8. Select all that apply

- Increased resilience to market or environmental shocks
- Diversified revenue streams
- Reduced exposure to single-market or single-customer risk
- Other:

Infrastructure and Asset Outcomes

11.9. Select all that apply

- Increased utilisation of existing assets
- Revitalised or repurposed facilities
- Improved access to culturally significant assets
- Other:

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Measurable Benefits - Evidence and estimates for selected measurable outcomes

Quantitative benefits are the measurable improvements or advantages expected to result from your project. Please select up to three benefits that are most measurable and relevant to your project. You will then be asked to provide additional detail and estimates only for the benefits you select. Where exact figures are not available, provide your best estimate and explain any assumptions used.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and metrics work best when they:

- Are quantifiable/numeric
- Are clearly defined and succinct
- Contain all the context needed to gauge and compare the result (e.g. unit [e.g. cm, metres, people, people-days, %, etc]; direction of change [increase; decrease; etc.]; timeframe [e.g. per month; per year; etc]).

Measurable benefit 1 *

Measurable benefit 2

Measurable benefit 3

Additional Measurable Benefits

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

You can provide details of any additional measurable benefits here. Note: Only the first three measurable benefits will be included in the modelling for cost benefit analysis.

Additional Detail for Selected Benefits

Please provide additional detail and estimates for the selected benefits below. Where exact figures are not available, provide your best estimate and explain any assumptions used

Reduced operational costs or overheads

Current operational costs *

Must be a dollar amount.

For example, \$ operating costs per unit of production, or total gross operating costs if a per-unit measure is not available.

Expected operational costs after project completion *

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Must be a dollar amount.

Please provide the expected operational costs after the project is completed

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please explain how you estimated the current and expected operational costs

Increased production capacity or business productivity

Current production or productivity level *

Please provide the current production capacity or productivity level

Expected production or productivity level after project completion *

Please provide the expected production capacity or productivity level after the project is completed

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please explain how you estimated the expected change in production capacity or productivity

New jobs created

The information relevant to this Measurable Benefit was completed on Page 8 of this application form (Merit Criteria - Economic Benefit). If you wish to edit the information for this, please make any changes in the relevant sections in Page 8.

Jobs retained

The information relevant to this Measurable Benefit was completed on Page 8 of this application form (Merit Criteria - Economic Benefit). If you wish to edit the information for this, please make any changes in the relevant sections in Page 8.

Improved workforce capability (training, skills uplift)

How training addresses a local skill shortage *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please describe how this training or skills uplift addresses a local skill shortage

Number of people expected to receive training/upskilling *

Must be a number.

How many people are expected to receive training or skills uplift through this project?

Improved ability to attract or retain skilled workers

Base case number of workers *

Must be a number.

Please provide the current number of workers in the relevant workforce or role group

Expected number after intervention *

Must be a number.

Please provide the expected number of workers after the project intervention

Supporting evidence / explanation *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please explain how the project will improve your ability to attract or retain skilled workers

Improved supply chain efficiency or reliability

Current supply chain issues *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please describe the existing supply chain and the main reliability or efficiency issues currently experienced

Current cost/frequency of failures *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please describe the cost and frequency of current supply chain disruptions, delays or failures

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Expected cost savings *

Must be a dollar amount.

What are the expected cost savings from improved supply chain efficiency or reliability?

Expected reduction in failures/delays *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please describe the expected reduction in the frequency or severity of supply chain disruptions or delays

Improved logistics, freight or distribution capability

Please explain how the project will improve profitability and/or resilience through improved logistics, freight or distribution capability.

How the project improves logistics/freight/distribution *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Expected cost savings *

Must be a dollar amount.

Expected reduction in delays or failures *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Strengthened regional supply chain resilience

Current risks / disruptions *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Frequency and associated costs of current failures *

Word count:

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Must be no more than 100 words.

Expected cost savings and resilience improvement *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Improved environmental performance (energy, water, waste)

Current consumption/usage levels *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please provide current consumption or usage levels. For example, energy use, water use, waste generation, or other relevant environmental measures.

Expected consumption/usage levels after project completion *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Increased participation in circular-economy initiatives

Current practices *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please describe current circular economy or resource recovery practices

Current volume diverted *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please provide the current volume of material currently diverted into circular economy opportunities, if known

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Expected change after project *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Increased resilience to market or environmental shocks

Current risk *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Scale of risk *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Probability of occurrence *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

How the project reduces this risk *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Diversified revenue streams

Current revenue concentration / risk *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Scale and probability of risk *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

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How project will diversify revenue *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Reduced exposure to single-market or single-customer risk

Current exposure *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Scale and probability of risk *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

How project reduces this exposure *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Increased utilisation of existing assets / Revitalised or repurposed facilities / Improved access to culturally significant assets

Current usage *

Proposed usage after project

Proposed usage after project *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Please provide expected usage after project completion

% or numerical change *

Must be a number.

Please provide the expected change in numbers or percentage terms, if known

Additional Economic Data

* indicates a required field

Additional Economic Data

This section only applies to projects with a total project cost over \$10 million. The information collected will support economic analysis and may be used to inform cost-benefit assessment. Please provide best estimates where exact figures are not available and explain your assumptions.

Options selected in the **Outcomes Page** (Page 11, Measurable Benefits section) will populate the relevant sections for further data and information to be entered below.

NSW Government Funding

12.1. What would most likely happen if this project does not receive NSW Government funding? *

- Project would not proceed
- Project would be delayed
- Project would proceed at a reduced scale

12.2. If delayed, by how many years? *

Must be a number.

12.3. If reduced scale, what percentage (%) of the project would still proceed without funding? *

Must be a number.

12.4. If project would proceed at a reduced scale please briefly explain your response. *

Improved workforce capability

How many people will receive training or upskilling? *

Must be a number.

What key skills will be developed? *

Do these skills address a local skill shortage? *

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- Yes
- No

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Increased workforce participation

How many people will enter or re-enter the workforce due to this project? *

Must be a number.

Which groups do these individuals belong to? *

For how many years will this increase continue? *

Must be a number.

How will the project support workforce participation? *

Please attach supporting evidence or assumptions. *

Attach a file:

Improved ability to attract or retain skilled workers

How many skilled workers do you currently employ? *

Must be a number.

How many do you expect after the project? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will this improvement continue? *

Must be a number.

How will the project improve attraction or retention? *

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Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Reduced operational costs

What are your current operating costs per year (\$)? *

Must be a dollar amount.

What do you expect your operating costs to be after the project (\$ per year)? *

Must be a dollar amount.

What proportion of this change is attributable to the project (%)? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will these savings continue? *

Must be a number.

Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Increased production capacity or productivity

What is your current production or productivity level? *

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What do you expect this to be after the project? *

What proportion of this change is attributable to the project (%)? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will this improvement continue? *

Must be a number.

Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Diversified revenue streams

What is your current total annual revenue (\$ per year)? *

Must be a dollar amount.

What new or expanded revenue sources will result from the project? *

What is your expected total annual revenue after the project (\$ per year)? *

Must be a dollar amount.

What proportion of revenue will come from new sources? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will this change continue? *

Must be a number.

Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

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Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Reduced exposure or reliance on a single market/customer

What proportion of revenue comes from your main customer or market (%)? *

Must be a number.

What do you expect this proportion to be after the project (%)? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will this reduction continue? *

Must be a number.

How will the project reduce this reliance? *

Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Improved supply chain efficiency

What supply chain issues do you currently face? *

What is the annual cost of these issues (\$ per year)? *

Must be a dollar amount.

What do you expect the cost to be after the project (\$ per year)? *

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Must be a dollar amount.

What proportion of change is attributable to the project (%)? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will improvements continue? *

Must be a number.

Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Strengthened supply chain resilience

What major disruptions or risks could affect your supply chain? *

If these events occur, what is the estimated cost (\$ per year)? *

Must be a dollar amount.

By how much will the impact or likelihood reduce (%)? *

Must be a number.

For how many years will this improvement continue? *

Must be a number.

Basis of estimate / assumptions evidence *

Attach a file:

Basis of estimate / assumptions *

Declaration and Authorisation

* indicates a required field

Declaration

The Applicant represents and warrants that this application has been submitted by an authorised representative of the Applicant (e.g. CEO, Chief Financial Officer, General Manager, Director, Chair of the Board, President, authorised manager etc).

Where this Application is submitted in the course of employment by a representative of any kind (e.g. authorised representative or agent) of the Applicant, you: (i) acknowledge and agree that the Applicant is deemed to be jointly and separately bound by this application; and (ii) represent and warrant that you have the authority to represent and bind the Applicant as contemplated by this provision.

By submitting this application form I hereby declare that:

- I agree for my project to be automatically considered in other NSW funding programs
- I have read and understood each of the acknowledgements, agreements, representations and warranties provided above, and that each of these are true and correct
- All information provided including the responses to each question in the relevant sections of this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge
- Any information contained in this application may be disclosed to other Government agencies, staff administering the program, and to external stakeholders (including consultants, lawyers and other advisers) as part of the assessment of this application
- I am authorised to submit this application on behalf of, and have the authority to represent and bind the Applicant
- I understand that any false declaration may render this application ineligible/invalid; and
- All relevant conflicts of interest have been declared.

Authorisation

I agree *

Yes

Name of authorised person *

Title First Name Last Name

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Must be a senior staff member, board member or appropriately authorised volunteer

Position *

Position held in applicant organisation (e.g. CEO, Treasurer)

Phone number *

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Must be an Australian phone number.
We may contact you to verify that this application is authorised
by the applicant organisation

Email *

Must be an email address.

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