



# Assistance Grants - Access to Industry Priority Uses of Agvet Chemicals 2023–24 Program (Round 9)

## Feedback for applicants

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The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the Department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Assistance Grants - Access to Industry Priority Uses of Agvet Chemicals 2023–24 program (Round 9) grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the grant opportunity guidelines and outlined in the selection process below.

## Overview

The application submission period opened on 2 November 2023 and closed on 1 February 2024. The grant opportunity received 17 applications.

The objective of the program is to provide funding to Rural Research and Development Corporations to assist them with data generation to support applications to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority that seek to gain, maintain, or broaden access to priority minor uses of Agvet chemicals. A 'minor use' Agvet chemical product is a product or use that would not produce sufficient economic return to an applicant to justify the cost of registration. Priority minor uses are identified in collaboration with a cross-industry forum.

## Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines. This information was provided to the Department's Grant Opportunity Delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Department assessed and considered eligible and compliant applications through a closed non-competitive grant process. The selection advisory panel (the panel) established by the Department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

When assessing applications, the panel took into consideration several factors incorporating the inclusion or exclusion of late applications, the volume of applications received, meeting the identified requirements outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines and the available funding envelope.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was, based on:

- compliance with the grant opportunity guidelines
  - suitability against the eligibility criteria in the grant opportunity guidelines
  - how well the applicant's responses met the assessment criteria
  - the extent to which an application compared against other applications
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- alignment to the developmental plan outline and other requested attachments
  - whether it provided value with relevant money
  - how the proposed activities would contribute to achieving government policy outcomes
  - identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies for the Department and the Commonwealth.

## Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criterion.

The Department notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criterion.

### Criterion 1

What national priority project will this grant activity address?

- Grants announced help Australian farmers access safe and effective Agvet chemical solutions to manage priority pests and diseases. The grants program forms part of the Australian Government's 11 year \$26 million investment (2014–15 to 2024–25) to improve access to safe and effective chemicals.

Strong applications:

- were those that closely aligned with industry's needs.

### Criterion 2

How will the grant activity funds be spent?

- In providing a response to this criterion applicants were required to state the total funds requested and provided a budget which outlined expected activities (including trials) and estimates of all costs of the project, within the maximum grant amount (refer to section 3.1).

A budget template was provided as an attachment to the grant opportunity. Applicants must have attached the completed template to their application. The character limit for this criterion was 1,000, including spaces.

Strong applications:

- demonstrated value with relevant money – that is, they represented an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources.

## Individual feedback

Individual feedback will be provided for this grant opportunity. To request individual feedback please follow the instructions as set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines section 9.1.