



Support Plantation Establishment 2024–25 (Round 2)

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Support Plantation Establishment grant opportunity.

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

Overview

The application submission period for Round 2, Batch 1 opened on 9 February 2024 and closed on 15 April 2024.

The Support Plantation Establishment program runs over 4 years from 2023–24 to 2026–27. The funding supports the establishment of new long-rotation softwood and hardwood plantation forests and assists the sector to respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber resources. The program's key intended outcomes are to increase domestic timber supply, particularly construction and manufacturing timber resources, and to contribute to Australia's carbon emissions reduction commitments.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the department's delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and or compliance criteria.

The department considered all applications through a demand driven grant process based on the eligibility criteria set out in the guidelines. Consideration of applications was based on the Plantation Management Plan, Plantation Management Plan endorsement coversheet, indicative project budget and other required attachments.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the program and successful applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the guidelines.

The department notified applicants of the outcome in writing where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

General feedback

This feedback is to assist grant applicants to understand for this grant opportunity what generally comprised a strong application and provide guidance in completing applications for future grant opportunities.

Eligible entity types

To be eligible, you had to be one of the following entity types:

- Company
- Corporate State or Territory Entity
- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation
- Sole Trader
- Cooperative
- Partnership.

If you were applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust, the Trustee must have been an eligible entity type as listed above.

Applicants were required to have an Australian business number (ABN) which verified their eligible entity type.

Eligibility

Strong applications provided all required documentation as outlined in the guidelines.

This included:

- a plantation management plan which met all requirements detailed in the *Guidance for meeting the requirements of the Plantation Management Plan*, especially:
 - detailed maps which clearly identified internal areas which would not be planted due to retained native vegetation, watercourses, and infrastructure such as roads and firebreaks.
 - outlining the planned timings of the plantation establishment activities which the grant funding was sought for and ensured all dates were after the earliest activity start date of the batch the applicants had applied to. These dates were published in the guidelines.
- time-stamped satellite imagery which demonstrated that the land the new plantation would be established on had not been used as a plantation or native forest for the last 7 years this included:
 - a clear time-stamped satellite image of the site from 7 years prior to the time of application.
 - a clear time-stamped satellite image of the site from as recently as possible and no later than 2 years prior to the time of application.
- a Plantation Management Plan Endorsement Coversheet, signed by a suitably qualified forestry professional which endorsed all of the project's requirements listed in the guidelines.

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- an indicative budget which clearly demonstrated how grant funding and any financial co-contributions provided by the applicant would be spent over the project's length.
 - clear details on the applicant's co-contribution and its value.

Applications commonly used the land the new plantation forests would be established on as their co-contribution.

Strong applications:

- demonstrated the land value by providing a land valuation received within 5 years of the application submission date, which included maps of the title, lot or land boundaries and the land size in hectares.
- used the valuations and the land size figures to demonstrate the value of the land in their indicative project budget.

Individual feedback

Unsuccessful applicants were provided with contact details from the department to seek individual feedback, where appropriate.