



Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program - Ranger Capability Building Grants - Round 3

Feedback for Applicants

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program - Ranger Capability Building Grants - Round 3 grant opportunity.

Overview

The Indigenous Rangers Biosecurity Program Ranger Capability Building Grants (the Program) enables Ranger organisations with existing biosecurity surveillance fee-for-service contracts with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to build the capability of their Indigenous Rangers.

The objective of the grant program is to build on the existing capability of Indigenous Rangers who undertake biosecurity work in northern Australia.

The intended outcomes of the **grant program** are:

- Increased capacity of Indigenous Rangers to undertake current and future biosecurity fee-for-service activities for the department.
- Increased skills and capability of Indigenous Rangers to enhance their career pathways.
- Improved work health and safety of the work undertaken by Indigenous Rangers in remote areas.

The application submission period opened on 3 September 2024 and closed on 21 October 2024.

The grant opportunity received 33 applications. Following the Delegate's decision, 30 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$2,000,072.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what generally comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the DAFF for the final decision on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria. Ineligible and non-compliant applications did not progress to assessment.

DAFF then assessed and considered all eligible and compliant applications through a Targeted Competitive grant process. All assessed applications were considered by the Selection Advisory Panel. The Panel established by DAFF, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the DAFF's funding recommendations to the Delegate.

Each application was considered on its merits, based on all of the following:

- How well it met the criteria
- How it compared to other applications
- Whether it provided value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, the Selection Advisory Panel gave regard to:

- The overall funds available to all eligible organisations
- Evidence of the value of items sought to be funded, for example quotes for training and equipment
- The relevant Ranger group's current fee for service contract (activity types and value) as well as completion rates from previous activity plans
- The extent to which the grant contributes to increased capacity of Indigenous Rangers to undertake current and future biosecurity fee for service activities for DAFF
- The extent to which the grant contributes to increased skills and capability of Indigenous Rangers to enhance their career pathways
- The extent to which the grant contributes to improved work health and safety of the work undertaken by Indigenous Rangers in remote areas
- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a commitment to the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program
- The risks, financial, fraud and other, that the applicant or activities poses for the department and the Commonwealth
- The applicant's past performance in meeting obligations under grant agreements including delivering agreed activities and meeting reporting requirements.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

Criterion 1: How the grant activities will contribute to maintaining or increasing the capability of the Ranger group/s to undertake biosecurity activities for DAFF

Criterion 2: How the grant activities offer value for money, will be delivered to a high standard, and do not pose an unacceptable risk.

Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion and the alignment of activities for which funds were sought.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and total funds sought by applicants exceeded available funding. The successful organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria for supported activities and supported activities aligned strongly with the criteria and provided value for money.

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

Successful applicants addressed the assessment criterion clearly by providing:

- Fully completed all fields in the application documents with sufficient detail to demonstrate clearly how the grant activities link to the biosecurity activities and examples of how they will benefit the ranger group in undertaking biosecurity work.
- Detailed information about the need for the equipment/training/minor work/other activity and how biosecurity activities, work practices or safety would be improved through undertaking the activity.
- Sufficient evidence that the equipment/training/minor work/other activity represents value for money, for example, providing one or more detailed quotes on the requested grant activities and/or a break-down of calculations and justification for costs and use of certain suppliers.
- Detailed description for each activity to assist the panel in understanding what the equipment/training/minor work/other activity will involve and the end outcome, for example, for equipment: detailed specification for equipment including brand and model; for training: course code, RTO, delivery mode/length, additional details if not nationally accredited course; for minor works: project plan, drawings, detailed work breakdown.
- A fully completed Risk Management Plan with sufficient evidence attached demonstrating adequate risk mitigation strategies in place such as copies of safe work operating policies and procedures, relevant licences and qualifications and so on.

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

Individual feedback

Individual feedback can be provided for this grant opportunity upon request. If you have been advised that your application was not successful, you can request feedback by contacting DAFF at tropicalbiosecurity@aff.gov.au within 30 days of receipt of the outcome of your application.