Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**
GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Rural Business
Development Corporation**

Australian Government

Phase out of live sheep exports by sea—transition assistance

Supply Chain Capacity Program—Frequently Asked Questions

These Frequently Asked Questions apply to grants for the **Supply Chain Capacity Program—Round 2**. Applicants should read this document in conjunction with the **Guidelines for Applicants** prior to submission of their application.

The Fund will open to applications on **27 February 2026**

The closing date for applications on **5 PM AWST 24 April 2026**

The Supply Chain Capacity Program is an open competitive grant program meaning each application is assessed against other applications.

Assessment is merit-based and will consider the quality of the proposal and the potential impact of the proposed project. Grants will be awarded to those applicants that best meet the assessment criteria outlined in the program guidelines based on the funding available.

If you cannot find below the answer to your question, please contact the Supply Chain Capacity Program Project team on supplychaincapacity@dpird.wa.gov.au or call 6552 2111

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

Round 2 is open to eligible businesses involved in production and processing in the sheep supply chain in Western Australia. This includes farmers, processors, feed lotters and supply chain capacity infrastructure providers such as cold storage and lairage providers.

You do not need to be currently or previously involved in live sheep exporting to apply.

See the Scheme Guidelines for eligibility criteria.

If you answer No to any of the eligibility criteria, please contact the Supply Chain Capacity Project Team to discuss.

My business hasn't been operating for more than two years, am I eligible?

No. Only businesses that have been operating for a minimum of 2 years can apply. You will need to provide evidence of business operations for this duration.

My business doesn't have an ABN—can I apply?

No. Only businesses with an Australian Business Number (ABN) and registered for GST can apply.

Can I apply if I have already received funding for my project from other sources or government grants?

Possibly. If the grant you have already received is for the same services or project you are requesting funding for under the program, then you will not be eligible to apply.

However, if the grant you have received relates to a different project/aspect of your business then you may still be eligible to apply. You should contact the Project team before applying.

Is the funding means-tested?

No. This is an open competitive grant program.

If an industry organisation/association conducted research with me, can they be a co-applicant?

You may include an industry organisation/association as a partner if you wish; however, the lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria and accept responsibility for contractual obligations.

Feasibility studies or research cannot be funded as a part of the project.

Can my application include collaborator(s)?

Yes. Business clusters, conglomerates, consortiums, and collaborations can apply where a lead business/primary applicant is defined that meets the eligibility criteria and applies and accepts responsibility for contractual obligations on behalf of the business group.

Details of the partner applicants will need to be provided in your application.

Can I apply more than once?

Yes. Multiple applications may be submitted by the same applicant. However, threshold limits apply per entity.

- Producers can request up to a total of $2 million across all applications submitted in Rounds 1 and 2 for on-farm finishing facilities.

- Processors can request up to a total of $5 million across all applications (Round 1 and 2) to enhance processing supply-chain capacity, efficiency, and productivity.

Each application must be for a distinct/separate project.

If you will intend on applying more than once, or have already received funding in Round 1, we recommend contacting supplychaincapacity@dpird.wa.gov.au to discuss your project/s prior to applying.

Can I apply for more than one funding program within the Transition Assistance Package?

Yes. You may be able to apply for more than one funding program within the Package; however, duplicate funding cannot be received for the same activity.

For further information on other assistance measures please see https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/livestock/live-sheep-exports-phase-out/transition-assistance

Funding limits, timeframe and eligible activities

What is the minimum and maximum funding available per application?

Funding is available in two streams:

1. Capital investments for producers seeking grant funding from $50,000 up to $2 million for on-farm finishing.
2. Capital investments for processors seeking grant funding of $50,000 up to $5 million to enhance processing supply chain capacity, efficiency and productivity.

The $50,000 minimum applies to the grant amount requested. Given the required 50% co-contribution, the minimum overall project value must therefore be $100,000.

When do I need to commence and complete my project?

Successful projects cannot commence prior to the commencement date stated in a grant agreement. Projects will need to commence within six months of an agreement being executed.

Based on the key dates in the guidelines, it's suggested that projects would start no earlier than the indicative announcement from August 2026 onward. All projects must be completed by **30 June 2028.**

What types of activities are eligible for funding?

Funding can be used for new or bringing forward planned capital projects in existing or proposed sheep producing and supply chain businesses.

Eligible activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Lairage, ramps, cold stores and wastewater upgrades.
- Improved heavy vehicle access and associated driver facilities.
- Developing and upgrading feedlots.
- Installation of technological advancements such as objective carcase measurement (OCM) technology in processing plants including upgrades to software systems and training for supply chain participants to understand applying OCM feedback.
- On-farm finishing infrastructure.

What types of activities are NOT eligible for funding?

Refer to the Scheme Guidelines for a list of activities that cannot be funded.

For specific queries on items, please contact the Project team.

Can I apply for feasibility studies, trials or de-risking activities with this funding?

No. Funding is only available for capital expenditure projects, except in the case of technological advancements such as objective carcase measurement (OCM), where software and training may be considered for supply chain participants to understand applying OCM feedback.

Can I apply for activities that have already commenced?

No. Only eligible activities, which have not commenced prior to formal notification of the successful outcome of your application, can be funded.

Can I use this funding for current facilities?

Funding can be used for capital works that will either assist in on-farm finishing (producers) or enhance processing supply chain capacity, efficiency and productivity. This may include new or expansion of current facilities. Funding for repair or like-for-like replacement that can be considered part of normal business operations are not eligible.

Applications need to demonstrate how proposed infrastructure will enhance onshore production and supply chain capacity.

Can I apply for funding to construct/support more than one capital item?

Yes. Your application can include all the eligible components you are seeking funding for related to your project. Applications must include any planned capital expenses as funding cannot be used for project components that have not been approved prior to an executed agreement being in place.

Can I apply for funding for multiple sites/business properties?

Yes. You must provide details for all project components and locations in your application. It is recommended that you include a rationale for how the different aspects of your project will assist in delivering the outcomes of the Scheme.

Application

How do I apply?

Applicants must submit an online application addressing the assessment criteria and supplying all information requested in SmartyGrants: https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/SupplyChainCapacityR2

Paper applications cannot be accepted. If you have difficulties completing your application, please contact the Project Team prior to the closing date.

How will I know if my application has been received?

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an acknowledgement email from Smarty Grants that it has been received.

Please email supplychaincapacity@dpird.wa.gov.au if you don't receive this.

What information do I need to provide?

Applications need to include information related to the business and proposed project. Please refer to the Application form or Scheme Guidelines for further details.

Do I need to provide quotes with my application?

Yes. Applicants must provide quotes for any items, services, or works that will be funded through the grant. Quotes help verify project costs and ensure the budget is accurate and eligible under the program guidelines.

What constitutes a complete and eligible quote?

A complete, eligible quote must:

- Be on the supplier's official letterhead (or include their business name, ABN/ACN, and contact details).
- Be dated and still valid at the time of application.
- Clearly describe the goods or services being provided.
- Include itemised costs, including GST where applicable.
- Allow the applicant to enter GST-exclusive figures in the grant budget, as required by the program.
- Match the cost items listed in your application budget.
- Be provided by an independent third-party supplier (not the applicant or related entities).

Do I need to provide a business plan in my application?

Possibly. Applications must provide a rationale for the project with supporting information to demonstrate how it aligns with the Scheme outcomes and improves the capacity, efficiency and/or productivity of the business (as per the assessment criteria). Applicants seeking $500,000 or more will be expected to provide more detailed information.

Do I need to demonstrate what the impact of the end of live sheep exports will have on my business?

No. You will need to provide an outline of your project, the rationale behind it and detail the anticipated contribution it will make to strengthening the sheep supply chain.

Please refer to the Application form or Scheme Guidelines for further details.

Do I need to have all regulatory approvals finalised at the time of application?

No. However, you must indicate in your application what regulatory or compliance requirements have been considered as part of your project and discussed with the appropriate authorities. These may relate to approvals or licenses around health, environmental, planning/development, water and/or clearing. Your application will need to include likely timeframes for these, if applicable, to be addressed.

If successful in funding, you may need to provide evidence that any applications for approvals or licenses have been approved, lodged, or are not required, prior to an agreement able to be executed. If you are unsure if this relates to your project, please contact the Project team.

Can I update/revise my application after it has been submitted?

Yes. If you wish to revise your application prior to the closing date, please email supplychaincapacity@dpird.wa.gov.au and provide your application number to have it re-opened.

Any revisions or updates will need to be submitted prior to the Round 2 closing date and time

I am having difficulties with the SmartyGrants application form, who can I contact?

For technical issues or queries with the Smarty Grants application form, please contact supplychaincapacity@dpird.wa.gov.au or via telephone during business hours, (08) 6552 2111.

Are late applications accepted?

No. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

Grant value

What is the total amount of funding available for this grant round?

The total amount of funds available for this round of funding is $20 million.

How much do I need to contribute?

This program includes a mandatory co-contribution. As a result, the grant does not fund the entire project cost, and applicants are required to provide their own financial contribution.

Applications must demonstrate a minimum of 50% or 1:1 funding (cash) co-contributions.

Applicants should identify secured funding sources for this portion of funds and any associated conditions and provide evidence of those sources such as bank statement/s, bank loan documents, or letter confirming funding will be available

In-kind contributions **do not** count towards the required co-contribution.

What happens if the project cost is more than the maximum amount that I can apply for?

The maximum grant value is as per the applicable stream, or 50% of the total project cost whichever is lower. Any additional costs incurred above the required matched funding will be borne by the applicant.

Application outcome

Will all eligible applicants be successful?

No. All applications will be assessed by an Independent Assessment Panel against the criteria outlined in the Guidelines. The applicant must provide the scope of their project along with supporting documentation.

Projects must support the sheep industry by delivering new or advancing planned capital works in existing or proposed sheep production, finishing, or supply chain businesses.

Failure to meet the eligibility criteria will result in the application being recommended to be declined.

How will I know if I'm successful?

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within 20 weeks of the closing date for applications. Publications and/or public announcements of successful applicants may occur on an ad-hoc basis and be at the discretion of the RBDC.

Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with the opportunity to receive feedback on their application.

When do I receive the funding payment?

Payments are made upon evidence of satisfying milestones and receipt of compliant tax invoices.

Payments are made electronically to the bank account nominated by the approved applicant and substantiated by DPIRD's Finance Branch during contracting process.

What are the project reporting and evaluation requirements?

As a condition of funding, all grant recipients are required to provide bi-annual reports (six-monthly) for the term of the agreement.

Within 12-weeks of project end date, a detailed final acquittal report will need to be submitted. This includes a financial statement of the project income and expenditure, signed by the lead applicant and certificated by an independent Auditor with details of how the grant was expended.

The audit must be completed before the report is submitted to the Supply Chain Capacity Program team. Full details of the acquittal requirements for grant recipients are specified in the agreement.

Have another question?

For further information on the Program please contact the Project team at supplychaincapacity@dpird.wa.gov.au or via telephone during business hours, +61 (08) 6552 2111

Important Disclaimer

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