



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development



Rural Business  
Development Corporation



Australian Government

# Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea—transition assistance

## Supply Chain Capacity Program

## Scheme Guidelines – Round 1

This guideline contains information for applicants and should be read  
prior to completing the application form

August 2025

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## Scheme overview

The export of live sheep by sea from Australia will be prohibited by law from 1 May 2028.

The Australian Government has committed \$139.7 million in transition assistance over five years from 2024-25 to support individuals, businesses and communities to confidently plan and adapt to phasing out the trade.

The support includes this \$40 million Supply Chain Capacity Program to fund capital works that increase the capacity, efficiency and productivity of the sheep supply chain in WA. The funds will be available via two competitive grant rounds of \$20 million each.

The Program will be administered as a Scheme of Assistance under the *Rural Business Development Corporation Act 2000* by the Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC) and delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

If you need assistance in understanding the Guidelines or have questions about eligibility, please contact [supplychaincapacity@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:supplychaincapacity@dpiird.wa.gov.au) or via telephone during business hours, +61 (08) 6552 2111.

## Who can apply for funding?

Round 1 is open to eligible businesses that are, or will be, involved in the production and processing in the sheep supply chain, including farmers, processors, feed lotters and supply chain capacity infrastructure providers such as cold storage and lairage providers.

On-farm producers and smaller-scale abattoirs are encouraged to apply.

## Key dates

To be considered for funding through the Scheme applications must be submitted by **5.00pm (AWST) 22 October 2025**.

The table below details the key dates for Round 1 of the Scheme.

Activities	Dates
Ministerial announcement	27 August 2025
Applications open	27 August 2025
Applications close	5pm AWST 22 October 2025
Assessment and approvals	From 23 October 2025
Notification of decisions	January 2026
Recipients announced	January 2026
Development of grant agreements	From January onwards

Earliest start date for supported activities	Within <u>six months</u> of executing grant agreement.
Date supported activities must be completed	30 June 2028
Acquittals due on or before	30 September 2028

## Funding limits and timeframes

In round 1, \$20 million is available for eligible applicants to apply for **capital projects**.

Funding is available in two streams:

1. Capital investments for producers seeking grant funding from \$50,000 up to \$2.0 million for on-farm finishing.
2. Capital investments for processors seeking grant funding from \$50,000 up to \$5.0 million to enhance processing supply chain capacity, efficiency and productivity.

Applications will be considered on a competitive basis and need to demonstrate value for money and the contribution they will make to strengthening the sheep supply chain.

To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate **dollar-for-dollar matching co-contributions**.

Successful projects can commence once approved applicants have a fully executed grant agreement. Projects must be commenced within six months of grant agreements being fully executed and completed by 30 June 2028.

A business entity (and their related parent entity/conglomerate) is limited to apply for funding, in one or more applications, up to the total maximum funding available in its applicable stream.

## Activities that CAN be funded

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.

## Activities that CANNOT be funded

Funding cannot be used for:

- Costs incurred prior to the project commencement date in the grant agreement.
- Subsidising the applicant's or related entity's operational expenditure (i.e. the ongoing costs of running the business, such as processing and manufacturing costs, salaries, utility charges, rent, or relocation of employees).
- Costs incurred to prepare grant application.
- Travel expenses.
- Purchase of land.
- Non-infrastructure items except for software systems and training as part of a technological advancements e.g. OCM costs.
- Costs related to non-livestock buildings (e.g. residential buildings).
- License, regulatory, legal, consultant or project management fees.
- Feasibility studies and/or preparation of regulatory documents.
- Protecting or patenting intellectual property.
- Repair or connection to infrastructure or major equipment upgrades/replacement that could be considered part of normal business operations.
- Research and development.
- Any other expenditure as determined by the funders not meeting Scheme conditions.

## Applicant eligibility requirements

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding, applicants must:

- Be operating or intending to operate in WA's sheep supply chain.
- Be a private sector business (including incorporated trustees), a public company, a grower cooperative, a conglomerate, a formal/informal partnership or similar organisations having an Australian Business Number (ABN) and registered for GST in Australia.
- Have an account with an Australian financial institution.
- Be authorised to enter into a legally binding agreement with the WA Government.
- Have been in operation for a minimum of two years (or similar established track record or demonstrated record of industry operation).
- Be financially viable, with the intention to continue operating into the foreseeable future and there are no plans, events and/or circumstances known to the applicant which would result in their business ceasing to trade.
- Not be under any formal compliance or legal actions.
- Intend to locate their project in regional and/or metropolitan WA.

- Have the financial capacity to fund the minimum cash contribution.
- Intend delivering their project by 30 June 2028. Projects must commence within six months of executing a grant agreement (which will include agreed milestones and project deliverables) with the State.

Business clusters, conglomerates, consortiums, and collaborations can apply where the lead business/primary applicant meets the above criteria and accepts responsibility for contractual obligations on behalf of the business group. Such a group must provide the State with a copy of a signed and legally binding contractual arrangement or memorandum of understanding that sets out details of its engagement and commitments, including financial contributions to be provided by the primary applicant and the partner(s).

### **Applicants who are specifically NOT eligible**

Applicants will not be eligible for funding if they are:

- Commonwealth, state, regional and local government agencies or bodies.
- Businesses owned, co-owned or with representatives on their boards that are employees of DPIRD or RBDC Board Directors.
- Publicly funded research institutions.
- Industry associations.
- Foreign business entities operating overseas or do not possess business registration in Australia.

### **Additional information required from applicant**

Applications provide sheep supply chain businesses the opportunity to show how they will increase the capacity, efficiency and productivity of the supply chain.

Applicants will need to provide an outline of their project, the rationale behind it and the anticipated benefits to the State.

Applicants must supply the following to support their project proposal:

- Business information:
  - If a trustee of a trust, a copy of the trust deed that outlines that the trustee has the authority to make application on behalf of the trust.
  - Bank account details.
  - Physical and postal addresses.
  - Contact details.
  - Outline of the business including a description of the overall business operations.
  - Operational information relating to annual total revenue, current number of employees and business location.
  - Evidence of operation for a minimum of two years (including but not limited to ABN data, financial documentation, BIC codes or demonstrated record of industry operation).

- Financial statements for the last two financial years.
- Recent (past two years), if any, numbers/quantity of sheep processing activities undertaken (e.g. number of head, domestic and export process numbers, time on feedlot, days/hours of storage used, percentage of cold storage for sheep meat).
- Project information must include a description of the proposed project, including the purpose and objectives of the project.
- Estimated total project budget with itemised budget elements.
  - Anticipated grant funding request (not to exceed 50% of project budget).
- Project address where the capital works/investment is to be made.
- Demonstration of value for money and anticipated contribution the project will make to strengthening the sheep supply chain.
- Business case for the proposed project including what the impact of the project will be to the business and/or industry impact such as social economic benefits, efficiencies, environmental benefits, and employment.
- Current quotes supporting the grant request.
- Project timeline or schedule.
- Description and evidence of intended funding plan (e.g. self-funded, private investment).
- Delivery partners (if applicable).
- Efforts undertaken (or to be undertaken) to de-risk the project, such as business case, risk analysis and mitigation plan, feasibility assessment, engagement regarding approvals, licencing and regulatory requirements.
- Engagement with regulatory authorities – license and any compliance request disclosures.
- Evidence of export licence, if undertaking a project that will enable export, if held.

Applicants seeking in excess of \$500,000 from the Scheme, will be expected to provide more detailed information in their application.

## Applicant funding contribution

Applicants should demonstrate a cash contribution of dollar-for-dollar matching. That is no less than 50% of the total project budget. Evidence of this funding must be provided at the time of application.

Applicants should identify secured funding sources for this portion of funds and any associated conditions.

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

## How to apply for funding

Applicants must submit an online application addressing the assessment criteria and supplying all information requested in SmartyGrants

<https://dpiird.smartygrants.com.au/SupplyChainCapacityR1>

Applications received after 5pm (AWST) Wednesday 22 October 2025 will not be assessed.

## Assessment – how will the applications be assessed

Initial eligibility assessments will be undertaken by DPIRD.

The RBDC will appoint an Independent Assessment Panel (IAP) with suitable grant program, industry, technical and/or commercial experience to review eligibility, assess the applications and provide funding recommendations. Information about the IAP will not be disclosed.

Additional information may be requested about the applicant, application, third parties and project activities throughout the assessment processes.

An assessment report will be prepared and recommended applications presented to the RBDC for final decision-making.

The RBDC will consider the IAP recommendations to ensure alignment with the Scheme's objectives, endorse projects for funding and approve grant agreement conditions.

## Assessment process

Assessment will be a competitive process with all applications assessed upon closure of the application period, on their merits.

IAP recommendations may include financial and risk assessments on the applicants.

Applications will be assessed against the selection criteria detailed below. Applicants must address all the assessment criteria. Assessment scoring will be based on the weighting given to each criterion.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence provided in the application should be relative to a proposal's size and complexity, and the grant amount requested.

Eligible applicants will be assessed against the following **three (3)** criteria:



Assessment criteria			Weighting
1.	<b>Direct and indirect economic benefit</b>	<p>The applicant should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Demonstrate how the project will improve one or more of the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ competition,</li> <li>○ capacity</li> <li>○ efficiency</li> <li>○ productivity</li> <li>○ resilience</li> </ul> of the sheep business undertaking the project, or the industry more broadly.</li> <li>○ Address what additional employment opportunities will be created (including number of jobs created), opportunities for upskilling for existing employees, or opportunities for skills/job diversification by employees.</li> <li>○ Describe any innovation or technological improvement proposed and what it will deliver.</li> </ul>	40%
2.	<b>How will you deliver the project</b>	<p>The applicant has sufficiently demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project detail including how the project is technically feasible</li> <li>○ Delivery timeline has been considered and is realistic</li> <li>○ Risks to the project have been identified and how they are to be managed</li> <li>○ Infrastructure required has been identified and is fit for purpose</li> <li>○ Regulatory requirements have been considered, including what will be required</li> <li>○ Capacity and capability to deliver the project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consideration of operation and maintenance of the planned project</li> <li>○ Financial capacity including sufficient funds to deliver the project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	40%
3.	<b>Industry Integration</b>	<p>The applicant should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How the project fits into the market / supply chain.</li> <li>○ What the expected market for the output is</li> <li>○ Extent to which this project assists your business re-align to manage through the transition.</li> </ul>	20%

Other factors may be taken into consideration by the IAP, including but not limited to:

- Whether the applicant has received other grant funding for the same proposal.
- If the applicant is a previous recipient of grant funding from DPIRD, the relevant monitoring, evaluation and reporting performance of the applicant will be reviewed.
- The business and applicant(s) are considered in good standing with applicable regulatory, compliance, and taxation authorities.

## Conflict of interest

Those involved in assessing applications under the Scheme will complete a conflict of interested declaration.

An assessor will not participate in the assessment of applications where there is a perceived conflict of interest.

The assessment panel chair will be responsible for making judgements regarding conflicts of interest.

## Decision

The RBDC will make the final decision on which businesses will receive funding under this Scheme, based on the information contained within the assessment report. This includes compliance and assessment criteria identified in all policy documents related to the Scheme.

As the final decision-maker, RBDC can ask DPIRD for additional information related to the selection criteria, promotional material or in the applications.

If funds requested exceed funds available for suitable or recommended applicants, the RBDC may reduce funding levels requested for individual projects and seek recommendations from the IAP on this.

## Appeal process

There will not be an appeal process.

## Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within 16 weeks of the closing date for applications.

Successful applicants will be informed by:

- Formal email.
- Inclusion in a public media release.
- An announcement on DPIRD's website.

Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by formal email including an offer of feedback and contact details of person to provide feedback. They may also be provided information on other potential funding or assistance opportunities that may be applicable.

## Agreement arrangements

Offers to enter a grant agreement will be made to successful applicants by the RBDC.

DPIRD will discuss the development of a grant agreement with each applicant under delegation from the RBDC. The agreement will describe how and when payment of the grant is to be made, milestones and reporting requirements, as detailed below.

All agreements must be executed prior to project commencement. No retrospective payments will be made.

Agreements aim to be executed within 40 business days from the date of a written offer, and where applicable, have any financial or risk issues resolved prior to proceeding. The offer may lapse if an agreement is not signed within this time.

## Reporting and monitoring requirements

Reporting arrangements for the Scheme include six monthly and milestone reports that are to be submitted by successful applicants via DPIRD's online platform, SmartyGrants.

As a condition of funding, all grant recipients are required to provide a detailed final acquittal report.

Within twelve weeks of a project's completion, the grant recipient must provide DPIRD with a financial statement of income and expenditure signed by the CEO (or equivalent) of the grant recipient and certified by an auditor and include details of how the grant was expended. Costs relating to the cost of an auditor can be included in the grant project budget. The final report must be audited by an independent auditor prior to lodgement.

Full details of the reporting, financial and acquittal requirements for grant recipients will be specified in the grant agreement.

Assisting with the overall evaluation of the transition assistance, including up to 12 months after the grant activity period has concluded, reporting may include:

- the provision of high-level data on seasonal/annual sheep numbers through your project, both projected and actual for initial operations.
- summary of how your project has impacted the supply chain or how you have worked with other supply chain members e.g. to turnoff sheep, create markets for sheep products (as appropriate)
- High level employment impacts will also be sought including any re-training or additional workforce opportunities as a result, noting seasonal impacts.

All data is high-level, aggregated and in strict confidence.

In addition to the required final acquittal report, regular project monitoring activities may include milestone reviews with DPIRD via email/phone and/or site visits.

## Tax information

Funding provided to recipients under a grant agreement is regarded as payment for a supply. Therefore, GST-registered grant recipients will be liable for GST in connection with the grant.

The grant will be increased by the amount of GST payable. Recipients must provide a tax invoice for the GST inclusive value of the grant.

Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining funding.

## Personal information and disclosure of information

Applicants should note DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, which provides a general right of access to records it holds as a State Government agency.

## Intellectual property

Any intellectual property rights that may exist in an application will remain the property of the applicant or the rightful owner of those intellectual property rights.

Any part of an application considered to contain intellectual property rights should be clearly identified by the applicant. The applicant grants to the State (and will ensure that relevant third parties grant) a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to use and reproduce the intellectual property for the purpose of administering the Scheme.

## Payment arrangements

The payment policy for the Scheme is as follows:

- Payments are made by DPIRD.
- 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 through the registered supplier process of DPIRD's Finance Branch during the contracting process.

## Aboriginal heritage compliance

Laws are in place in WA to protect and manage Aboriginal heritage. This could include rock art, ancient caves, burial sites, waterways, ceremonial sites or scar trees.

- Ensure you comply with all legal obligations regarding the [Aboriginal Heritage Act \(WA\) 1972](#) and
- Where required provide evidence that you have conducted due diligence specific to Aboriginal heritage before undertaking any activities on land, sea or country.
- For more information
  - [Home - ACHknowledge Portal](#)
  - [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System](#)

## Contact information

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

# Glossary of Terms

**Applicant** – the entity/individual who makes the application for funding.

**Application** – an application (or relevant part of an application) made for funding under the Scheme.

**Assessment Criteria** – a merit-based method of assessment outlined in the Scheme Guidelines. The Independent Assessment Panel will assess the applicants based on the criteria detailed.

**AWST** – Australian Western Standard Time.

**COI** – Conflict of Interest. The arrangements put in place to appropriately address and manage a perceived or actual conflict of interest.

**Completion Date** – Projects need to be completed by 30 June 2028.

**Decision Maker** – the person, or entity, who is responsible for making the final funding decision.

**Delivery Partners** – are other entities, apart from the primary applicant named in the proposal or in the full application. These may be appointed by business to deliver on capital expenditure undertaken by business to fulfil project milestones towards the grant.

**DPIRD** – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

**Grant** – Phase Out of Live Export- transition assistance grant

**Grower Cooperatives** – an enterprise jointly owned and democratically controlled by the individuals (growers/ farmers) who establish it and who benefit from using its services and registered through a state governance body

**Guidelines** – are the guidelines for the program, this document.

**Independent Assessment Panel** – panel appointed by the RBDC responsible for assessing applications in the Supply Chain Capacity Program

**Key Contact** – the applicant person to contact if there are any queries or information required in relation to the program.

**Lead business/Primary applicant** – the person listed and identified in the application as entity responsible to report on all the project obligations, legal obligations and milestones for the business/ entity.

**RBDC** – The Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC) is an independent statutory authority of the WA Government, established under the *Rural Business Development Corporation Act 2000*.

**Selection criteria** – is a defined method, highlighting key standards and qualifications required by applicants to fulfil which supports fair and transparent evaluation of applications.

**Scheme** – The Supply Chain Capacity Program, a part of the Australian government Phase-Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition assistance.

**SmartyGrants** – is the online grant management system used by DPIRD.

#### Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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