

**Q&A: Information Session
Friday, 16 November 2018**

Question	Answer
Is funding under the Stage 1 Grant Program going to be targeted at high priority areas for water quality outside of the regions/commodities that have already been funded through the Major Integrated Projects?	No, all moderate, high and very high priority areas will be eligible for funding regardless of the presence or absence of a Major Integrated Project in the area.
Is there any scope for consideration of projects that maintain capacity and programs but are not within a priority area within the WQIP?	No, not in this round of funding. Only projects within moderate, high or very high priority areas will be in scope in the current grant round.
The Grant Guidelines exclude any activity that enables a business to comply with the Reef Regulations. Please clarify what this means, and also how this will apply in the event that there are changes to the regulations.	<p>Any specific actions that would allow land managers to directly comply with regulations are not permitted. For example, paying a farmer to use the regulated rate of fertiliser or pesticide is not permitted.</p> <p>However, enabling actions, for example, projects that encourage engagement of farmers/graziers in BMP programs, extension, training, agronomy services, are eligible. Whilst these things may lead to greater compliance, they are not directly linked and may lead to additional outcomes, above and beyond the regulated minimum standard.</p> <p>Projects will need to satisfy this requirement based on the regulations in force at the time of implementation.</p>
Would it be possible to apply for a project that only uses the funds in 2020?	No, this would not meet the time critical criterion.
Please explain the minimum budget of \$500,000.	This is to encourage projects of sufficient scale to support the outcomes that will be required to make significant progress towards the water quality targets.
<p>Are farmer grants for equipment upgrades permissible under the Reef WQ Improvement Grant Program Stage 1?</p> <p>Will there be other funding opportunities for farmers to implement practice change including machinery purchases?</p>	<p>Equipment upgrades are not eligible however, using funds to purchase incidental items may be permissible in certain contexts.</p> <p>There will be further funding opportunities, including through more innovative approaches. However, the detail of what will and won't be funded has not been established. The annual work plans, due in June each year will comprise this detail.</p>

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Is it possible to apply to extend an existing project without changing the strategy?	Yes. The project will of course need to satisfy the assessment criteria, including demonstrating success in progress towards achieving water quality outcomes.
Will there be a further call for new project EOI's before March 2021?	The annual work plans, articulating specific actions for the following financial year, will be developed by June each year. We would expect there will be a further call for proposals prior to March 2021.
<p>Do we submit all our application information directly in the word document grant application form provided under each heading or in a separate proposal document?</p> <p>In the application form, are the boxes in section 4 meant for the assessors or the applicants to complete?</p>	<p>Applicants are required to complete the application form provided. Appendices are permitted if the applicant wishes to submit additional information.</p> <p>The space provided in section 4 is for the applicant to complete, not the assessor. This section is for the applicant to demonstrate how they meet the assessment criteria.</p>
The assessment criteria state 'The applicant's project maintains or builds existing on-ground delivery capacity and capability (criteria 2) and 'the applicant's project is delivered by existing providers implementing a proven approach". To what degree will the grant accommodate new players outside existing projects?	"New players" are not excluded from this grant round and do not have to be collaborating with existing reef water quality project. However, a preference will be given to proponents who have successfully applied the proposed methodology within the Reef catchments on the basis that they have a proven track record in this area.
Would a proposal for trainee agricultural extension work placements be within scope?	Yes. Such a proposal would likely meet the criterion related to maintaining or increasing delivery capacity. The proposal would need to meet the other assessment criteria.
Will there be a focus around reducing the use of fertilizer on farms and also improving the practices of farming to reduce leaching?	There will not be a specific focus on these aspects, however projects that address this issue will be in scope, provided they satisfy the assessment criteria.
We are looking at a project that will require the involvement and education of graziers as part of our practical implementation. Would this be considered and supported?	Education and extension programs are likely to satisfy assessment criterion 2 related to building delivery capacity and capability.
<p>We are considering an application for an area which is a priority for dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) reduction but low for fine sediment.</p> <p>The proposed project would focus on riparian revegetation. Does this fall under one of the program funding priorities (i) agricultural extension and agronomic services, including related to cane and grazing (ii) land manager</p>	The project would need to show that it is addressing the relevant priority pollutant. In this case, the project would need to demonstrate that the approach is focussed on addressing DIN if it is located in an area that is a priority for DIN (but not for sediment).

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engagement to encourage stewardship or (iii) catchment restoration to decrease erosion.	
<p>There was mention that capital item expenditure is not eligible. Are on-ground works an eligible activity?</p> <p>The guidelines mention catchment restoration to decrease erosion as one of the 3 broader activities (assessment criteria 2). Aside from extension around best practices for managing and preventing streambank and gully erosion, are remediation works eligible?</p>	<p>Yes, on-ground works are eligible for funding under this grant round.</p> <p>Yes, remediation works are eligible for funding under this grant round.</p>
Our company has innovative ideas around reducing pollution loads from diesel generators. Does this fit into your criteria?	No, this grant round is focused on proven and tested technologies and methods to drive water quality outcomes. There will be opportunity for more innovative ideas in future funding streams.
Can you please advise if detailed planning to prioritise action in priority catchments will be considered for funding?	No, detailed planning to prioritise action in catchments, alone, will not be considered for funding.
The guidelines prohibit the applicant distributing funds to other parties who are not contractors to the project and who have not been clearly identified in the grant application. Does this clause rule out the opportunity to provide grower matched, financial incentives to help growers adopt practice change?	Incentive payments are eligible. However, given the singular focus of the grant round on improving delivery capacity, the proposal would need to demonstrate that any incentive payments are integral to a project that is primarily focused on building delivery capacity.
<p>Would water quality monitoring programs be considered under this stage of grants?</p> <p>Will the GBRF support the development of novel monitoring techniques as part of this phase or will monitoring techniques used need to be well proven methods?</p>	<p>Standalone water quality monitoring programs will not be considered under this grant round. Water quality monitoring programs aligned with on-ground delivery programs will be in scope.</p> <p>Generally monitoring will need to occur via proven methods. However, low risk novel monitoring techniques may be considered in some contexts.</p>
Are there any restrictions to particular industries? For example, could dairy and horticulture be included provided they are in a priority catchment and target a priority pollutant (especially those industries that cannot be modelled in Paddock to Reef)?	There are no restrictions on applying for funding relating to industries such as dairy and horticulture. The criteria related to measurable outcomes (Criteria 4) provides that projects will need to report information consistent with that provided under the Paddock to Reef program. Where a proposed project relates to an approach that is not currently accounted for in the Paddock to Reef program, this would not preclude

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	the project. Instead, the project would need to provide equivalent information through some other reporting mechanism.
In demonstrating success of previous projects, how important is water quality testing showing baseline and final water quality at the end of the project?	Baseline and final water quality data demonstrating water quality improvements will be viewed favourably, however, are not essential. Proven success can be modelled or demonstrated using other meaningful indicators.
Would funding be considered to cover salaries and equipment for program delivery equipment, for example paddock monitoring to demonstrate water quality benefit from adopting practices?	Salaries would be considered for funding. Large equipment is unlikely to be covered, however, small incidental items may be considered.
Do successful outcomes need to have been demonstrated in listed areas or elsewhere, even overseas?	No, it is not a requirement that the approach has been demonstrated in one of the priority Reef catchments, or even in Australia. However, there is inherent risk in applying methodologies in different environmental or socioeconomic contexts and expecting similar outcomes. This may make a project less competitive.
Would educational projects be assessed for water quality measurable improvements?	All projects must include measurable outcomes. These do not necessarily require monitoring of actual water quality changes. However, the proposed approach must allow for progress towards WQIP targets to be measured through meaningful indicators that demonstrate a pathway to improved water quality.
Can the requirement for previous or current reef protection initiatives be outside of the Australian Government funding, for example Queensland Government? Will this need to be demonstrated and evidence provided in the proposal?	Yes, previous or current reef protection initiatives can be outside Federal Government funding. This will need to be evidenced in the proposal and funder reference checks will be conducted.