



Queensland Community Fishing Grants guideline

FIS/2021/5686

Version 1.04

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Please note: When implementing this policy you must consider whether any human rights are engaged under the *Human Rights Act 2019* and whether any limitations on human rights are reasonable and justifiable. If you engage a human right you should conduct a proportionality assessment under the Act. Additionally, this policy has been reviewed on 06/10/23 to ensure actions and decisions under this policy can be made in a way that is compatible with human rights.

Owner Title: Fisheries Management

Endorsed by Title: Fisheries Queensland

Approved by Title: Minister responsible for Fisheries

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Revision history

| Version no. | Approval date | Comments |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| 1.01 | 14/07/2020 | Updated ahead of the 2020/21 grants program to clarify guidelines, update the application process and to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's fishing education |
| 1.02 | 28/07/2021 | Updated ahead of 2021/22 and simplify the process for applications requesting small funding amounts. Name change from Guideline for Qld's Recreational Fishing Grants Program |
| 1.03 | 29/08/2022 | Updated dates and figures ahead of 2022/23 and clarified guidelines regarding involvement of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and simplify the process for applications requesting small funding amounts |
| 1.04 | 18/08/2023 | Updated guidelines to further clarify that grant funding cannot be for staff wages or for-profit entities. Removal of wording around COVID-19 recovery. Removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples and replacement with First Nations Peoples. |

Keywords

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1 Policy statement

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline how the Queensland Community Fishing Grants Program will operate annually and how funding will be allocated.

2 Background and context

Queenslanders are keen anglers, with approximately 660 000 people participating in fishing for recreation (based on data from the 2019–20 Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey). Fishing is an integral part of Queensland lifestyles and is also important for tourism, attracting anglers from around Australia and the world.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of traditional fishing as a significant cultural activity for First Nations Peoples.

In 2023-24 the Queensland Government will provide up to \$250 000 worth of grant funding, through an expression-of-interest process, to support activities and projects that enhance the recreational fishing experience and support First Nations peoples traditional fishing in Queensland.

Of this, \$75 000 is set aside for small grants of \$5000 and less, specifically for the purpose of recreational or traditional fishing education activities, such as kids' fishing days or community recreational or traditional fishing programs.

3 Criteria and requirements

Applicant eligibility

Community not-for-profit organisations, angling clubs/associations, schools, councils, universities, statutory bodies/government agencies and incorporated bodies/associations in Queensland are eligible to apply.

Applicants should ensure that projects are delivered independent of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or departmental staff as this may constitute a conflict of interest.

Funding applications must relate to the improvement of recreational or traditional fishing in Queensland. Where applicable, projects should:

- have appropriate expertise within the project team to complete the project.
- represent value for money by incorporating other contributing funding or 'in-kind' contribution by the applicant and other project partners.
- be technically sound and utilise best practice.
- link to key strategic recreational fishing objectives and plans.

Scope of funding

To be successful, a project or activity must provide a benefit to recreational or traditional fishing in Queensland. Applications must demonstrate that the proposed project or activity meets at least one of the following criteria.

| Criterion | Project examples |
|--|---|
| Recreational and traditional fishing education and stewardship | Fishing workshops/clinics, schools, education, come-and-try days, fishing education programs, signs explaining sea country, education on First Nations peoples traditional fishing activities, citizen science projects, fish tagging |
| Fish habitat improvement and protection | Removing barriers to fish migration, replanting and protecting river bank vegetation, restoring water flows |
| Monitoring or research – provides linkages, value-adds or fills information gaps for recreational or traditional fishing | Social or economic surveys about fishing, biology or ecology of popular recreational species, projects that complement the Fisheries Queensland monitoring and research plan |

In addition to the broad strategic criteria outlined above, the Queensland Government is interested in applications that address these current recreational fishing priorities:

- contributes to the [*Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027*](#) target to 'increase satisfaction of recreational fishers and/or
- supports the recreational fishing strategies developed by the relevant local government to promote recreational fishing opportunities in the Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton net free zones and/or
- improves understanding of, or supports, traditional or cultural fishing activities of First Nations Peoples and/or
- supports economic growth through non-commercial fishing activities.

Out-of-scope projects and activities

The grants program is **unable** to fund:

- The purchase of equipment for a group's exclusive use or competitions and prizes, giveaways or alcohol for an event.
- Companies and other for-profit entities.
- General operating or travel costs not directly associated with a project/event.
- Stocking fish, including the purchase, transportation and/or the release of fish for an event – this is funded through the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS).
- Other activities that can be funded through SIPS, including research and monitoring to improve stocking strategies, tagging stocked fish, habitat restoration and improvement of general facilities.
- Commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose.
- On-ground projects on private land or land with no free public access.
- The business of organisations/clubs, including building club premises or improving club facilities that are only available to club members.
- Research or monitoring that doesn't deliver tangible, practical benefits for recreational fishing.
- Construction of boat launching ramps, boat wharves, boating pontoons or other boating infrastructure.
- Construction of general amenities, such as picnic tables, footpaths, toilet blocks, barbecues, shelters, landscaping and other picnic area enhancements.
- Ongoing maintenance, such as dredging or general repairs and maintenance of fishing and boating infrastructure (this is usually the responsibility of local authorities).
- Projects that provide education about pest fish issues (e.g. fishing competitions on pest fish) – pest fish are managed through Biosecurity Queensland and education is also funded through SIPS.
- Projects with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or departmental staff involvement.
- Projects or activities using grant money to fund staff wages or salaries.

Funding requirements

Organisations that are registered for GST must quote GST-exclusive prices in their project costings, as they are able to recoup the GST paid. Organisations that are not registered for GST will pay GST on goods and services without recouping this GST, and so should quote GST-inclusive prices in their costings.

Organisations are not required to match funding provided through this grant program. However, other contributions towards the project or activity will improve value for money. The application should specify any in-kind contributions (volunteer work, administration, donations) that will support delivery of the project or activity.

4 Assessment process

Receiving applications

Applicants must complete and formally submit an application through the online grants system. A link to the application will be available on the [departmental website](#) and is available at daf.smartygrants.com.au.

Applications that are submitted another way or are not submitted by the deadline will not be considered eligible. Fisheries Queensland may, at its discretion, extend the application period on a case-by-case basis.

Assessing applications

Fisheries Queensland will coordinate the grant application process and administration of funds. Applications will be assessed by the Queensland Community Fishing Grants Evaluation Panel. The evaluation panel will include representatives from Fisheries Queensland and key government agencies.

The evaluation panel will declare any conflicts of interest. If a conflict of interest exists, the relevant member of the evaluation panel will abstain from participating in the assessment of the project application in question.

Assessment criteria

The evaluation panel will assess all applications against the following criteria:

- The extent of benefit to recreational or traditional fishing and support from recreational fishers or First Nations peoples (i.e. project need).
- Cost-effectiveness, value for money and sound budgeting.
- The expertise and capability of the applicant/s to deliver the project or activity.
- Whether the project is technically sound.
- How well it links to Queensland's strategic recreational fishing priorities.
- Additional weighting will be given to projects that demonstrate support for regional economic activity.

A recommendation will be provided to the Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry, who will decide on the final grant allocations. In making recommendations on projects to fund, the assessment panel will ensure funding is distributed statewide to provide, as far as possible, opportunities for communities across Queensland.

Notification of outcome

Fisheries Queensland will advise all applicants in writing whether their application was successful. Following this, successful projects will be announced by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities by the end of March 2024 and the name and project of successful grant recipients will be published on the departmental website.

5 Alternative funding

In addition to the Queensland Community Fishing Grants, there are a number of alternative funding sources across the Queensland Government to consider, including:

- the [Gambling Community Benefit Fund](#), which distributes about \$60 million each year to community groups to enhance their capacity to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities.
- [Advance Queensland](#), who invest in a stronger economy by providing funding to support programs that drive innovation, build on natural advantages and help raise Queensland's profile as an attractive investment destination.
- the [Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme](#) (SIPS), which is administered by Fisheries Queensland to stock over 60 impoundments in Queensland with native fish specifically for recreational fishing with a permit – funding from permits supports fish stocking, habitat improvement, research and freshwater fishing community engagement for these impoundments.
- the [Queensland Marine Infrastructure Program](#), which is administered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to provide new and improved recreational boating facilities throughout Queensland.

6 How to apply

An expression-of-interest process will be open for a six-week period.

Applications will only be accepted through the online form available at daf.smartygrants.com.au.

Applications that are submitted another way or are not submitted by the deadline will not be considered eligible. Fisheries Queensland may, at its discretion, extend the application period on a case-by-case basis.

For assistance completing your application, email fisheriesgrants@daf.qld.gov.au and an officer will contact you to discuss your application.

7 Successful applicants

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement to enable grant funds to be dispersed and projects to commence. All successful applicants will need to work with Fisheries Queensland to:

- enter into a formal Queensland Community Fishing Grant Agreement.
- submit written reports on completed milestones and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding under the agreement.
- submit a final report on the project within 60 days of completing the project.
- acknowledge the Queensland Community Fishing Grant in project publications, signage and online marketing materials.

8 Annual report

Fisheries Queensland will prepare an annual report outlining how Queensland Community Fishing Grant funding was spent.

Appendix 1: Example Application Form

Please note: In order to be successful, applications must be made via the online form available at daf.smartygrants.com.au. The following is an example of the information that will be requested.

9 Community Fishing Grants

Applicant

Applicant Organisation

9.1.1 Organisation Name

9.1.2 Title First name Last name

▼

If you are applying on behalf of an organisation, please select organisation. A box will appear for your contact details below.

Applicant Project Contact

Applicant Project Contact

Title First name Last name

Contact details

9.1.3 Applicant Position

9.1.4 Applicant Primary Address

*but at least one field is required.

9.1.5 Applicant Primary Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Applicant Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Other details

9.1.6 Applicant ABN

Lookup

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information.

Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register

ABN

Entity name

ABN status

Entity type

Goods & Services Tax

(CST)

| |
|---|
| DGR Endorsed |
| ATO Charity Type More information |
| ACNC Registration |
| Tax Concessions |
| Main business location |

Must be an ABN.

Is the Applicant registered for GST?

9.1.7 Identify any potential conflicts of interest

10 Project Information

* indicates a required field.

Project title *

Project location(s) *

Where will your project or activity occur and where will benefit be delivered?

Short project description *

Provide a short description of your project - what are you aiming to achieve? (100 words recommended)

Start Date

Must be a date.

End Date

Must be a date.

Explain how your project meets assessment criteria

How many education days or sessions are you planning? *

Please also advise when they are planned for.

How many attendees are you expecting? *

10.1.1 Previous experience and training to organise fishing education days

Include information on people involved; project team expertise; knowledge or capacity generated; successes of past events. 300 words maximum.

10.1.2 Describe the specific objectives of the fishing education day and how these objectives will be measured *

Include information on people involved; project team experience; topics covered (e.g. fishing rules, techniques, responsible fishing practice); skills and methodology. 500 words maximum.

10.1.3 Explain why your project is needed and how it will benefit Queensland's community fishing experience *

How will it improve recreational fishing? How will it improve the understanding of, or support traditional cultural fishing activities of First Nations Peoples? 300 words maximum.

Methods of Fishing
Recreational
Traditional/Cultural

Do you have the appropriate insurance in place for this event?

Yes

No

If you currently do not have the requisite insurance in place you may ask for funds to cover the cost of insurance in your grant application.

10.1.4 Working with children

Will you be working with children?

Yes No

Do facilitators hold a blue card?

Yes

Please ensure that any blue card requirements are followed.

10.1.5 Does the project support regional economic and social growth (desirable)

10.1.6 Outline how the project supports economic and social growth through non-commercial fishing activities

Additional weighting will be given to projects that demonstrate support for regional economic growth (500 words maximum)

10.1.7 Supporting information

Please upload any attachments that provide additional information on your project.

11 Project budget

Project Budget

Include project expenses and any other funding or in-kind contributions. If the source of funding is requested from this grant, list "QCFG" as source of funding. Total funding requested from QCFG must be below \$5,000.

| Budget Item | Account | Source of Funding |
|-------------|---------|-------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

11.1.1 Total Project Cost

This number/amount is calculated. What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

11.1.2 Total Amount Requested from QCFG

Must be a dollar amount. What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

11.1.3 Quotes or budget documents