

The background of the cover features a light blue gradient with a pattern of stylized, overlapping waves. Several fish are depicted in a simple, line-art style, swimming towards the right. The fish are rendered in a slightly darker shade of blue than the background.

Guideline for Queensland's Community Fishing Grants

FIS/2021/5686

Version 1.02

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Last Reviewed 28/07/2021

“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 28/07/21 to ensure actions and decisions under this policy can be made in a way that is compatible with human rights.”

Owner Title: Management and Reform

Endorsed by Title: Fisheries Queensland

Approved by Title: Minister responsible for Fisheries

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	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

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1 Policy Statement

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

2 Background and Context

Queenslanders are keen anglers, with approximately 660,000¹ people participating in fishing for recreation. 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 Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Each year 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' traditional fishing in Queensland.

Of this, \$75,000 is set aside for small grants less than \$5,000, specifically for the purpose of recreational or traditional fishing education activities, such as kids' fishing days or community recreational or traditional fishing programs.

¹ 2019-20 Statewide and Regional Recreational Fishing Survey 12-month logbook phase, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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 (DAF) 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, and
- 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	Fishing workshops/clinics, schools, education, come and try days, fishing education programs, signs explaining sea country, education on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people's traditional fishing activities
Fish habitat improvement and protection	Removing barriers to fish migration, replanting & protecting river bank vegetation, restoring water flows
Monitoring or research - provides linkages, value adds or fills information gaps for recreational or traditional fishing	Possible projects include social or economic surveys about fishing; biology or ecology of popular recreational species; citizen science projects; fish tagging; projects that compliment Fisheries Queensland's Monitoring and Research Plan which is available online at https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/queensland-sustainable-fisheries-strategy/resource/fc7da976-661c-43ba-aaaa-9df8c2cb39d3 .

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 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 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples; and/or
- Supports community recovery from COVID-19 through non-commercial fishing activities.

Out of scope projects and activities

The recreational fishing grant program is unable to fund:

- The purchase of equipment for a group's exclusive use, competitions and prizes, give-aways, or alcohol for any events
- General operating or travel costs not directly associated with a project/event
- The stocking of 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
- Requests for funding 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 DAF 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. Organisation 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 matching funding provided through this grant program. However, other contributions towards the project or activity will improve value for money of the project or activity. The application should specify any in-kind contributions (volunteer work, administration, donations) that will support delivery of the project or activity.

4 Deciding how grant funds are spent

4.1 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 [Grants website](#) and is available at daf.smartygrants.com.au.

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

4.2 Assessing applications

Fisheries Queensland will coordinate the grant application process and administration of funds. Applications will be assessed by Queensland's 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. Where 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.

4.3 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 Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islander 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; and
- How well it links to Queensland's strategic recreational fishing priorities;
- Additional weighting will be given to projects that demonstrate support for regional economic recovery.

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

4.4 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 responsible for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities by the end of October 2021.

5 Alternative funding to consider

There are a number of alternative funding sources across the Queensland Government to consider when deciding whether to make an application for Queensland's Community Fishing Grant funding. Key programs include:

- Gambling Community Benefit Fund which distributes about \$54 million each year to community groups to enhance their capacity to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities for Queensland communities. More information is available at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/hospitality-tourism-sport/liquor-gaming/gaming/community-benefit-fund>.
- Advance Queensland who are investing in a stronger economy by providing funding of \$650 million to support programs that drive innovation, build on natural advantages, and help raise Queensland's profile as an attractive investment destination. More information is available at <https://advance.qld.gov.au/>.
- SIPs which is administered by Fisheries Queensland. This stocks 63 impoundments in Queensland with native fish specifically for recreational fishing with a permit. Funding from the permit supports fish stocking, habitat improvement, research and freshwater fishing community engagement for these impoundments. These types of activities should be considered separately by the SIPs program. More information is available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/dams>
- 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. Funding for recreational boating facility projects should be considered separately by this program. More information is available at: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/R/Recreational-boating-facilities>.

6 How to apply

An expression of interest process will be open for four weeks.

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

Applications that are submitted another way or are not submitted ahead of 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 projects will enter into an agreement to enable grant funds to be dispersed and projects to commence in October 2021. All successful applicants will need to work with Fisheries Queensland to:

1. Enter into a formal Queensland's Community Fishing Grant Agreement (the Agreement)
2. Submit written reports on completed milestones and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding under the Agreement
3. Submit a final report on the project within 60 days of completing the project; and
4. Acknowledge Queensland's Community Fishing Grant in project publications, signage and any online marketing materials.

8 Annual report

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

Appendix 1: Application Form

Note: in order to be successful applications must be made **online via the [online application portal](https://daf.smartygrants.com.au/)**. The online form will be made available at <https://daf.smartygrants.com.au/> but the following is an example of the information that will be requested.

Applicant	
Name: (company, business or trading name)	
Address:	
Phone:	ABN:
Email:	
Is the Applicant registered for GST?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Name and position of project team: <i>Example; J. Citizen – President, Fishing Body</i>	
Identify any potential conflicts of interest:	
Project information	
Project Title:	
Project Location(s):	
Project Start Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	Project End Date (dd/mm/yyyy):
Project Description & Methodology	
Describe the experiments, protocols or activities; species or people involved; the data to be obtained or knowledge, skills or capacity to be generated – <i>500 Word Maximum</i>	
Project Need	
Succinctly state why is your project needed – <i>300 Word Maximum</i>	
Project Objectives and how they will be measured	
Outline the specific objective(s) of the project and how these objectives will be measured. <i>300 Word Maximum</i>	
Planned outcomes	
Describe the outputs from the project and extension/communication of outcomes. <i>300 Word Maximum</i>	
Supporting regional economic recovery (desirable)	
Does the project support regional economic recovery from COVID-19 (Yes/No)? Outline how the project supports regional economic recovery <i>300 Word Maximum</i>	
Project Budget	

Include project expenses and any other funding or in-kind contributions. If the source of funding is this grant, list "QRFG"

Budget Item	Amount	Source of Funding
	\$	
	\$	
Total Budget	\$	
Total amount requested as part of this grant	\$	