

+ Rural Agricultural Development (sheep and goats) Grants Scheme - Round 2 Guidelines

1. About the Scheme

The objective of the Rural Agricultural Development (sheep and goats) Grants Scheme – Round 2 is to support economic development in relevant rural areas, strengthen primary production involving sheep and goats and support growth within Queensland's sheep and goat meat supply, processing and value chains.

These guidelines contain information about the scheme including eligibility requirements, how to apply and your obligations as an applicant. Please read these guidelines before applying.

Expressions of Interest open on 23 February 2023.

2. Available funding

- 2.1 Grants are available up to \$200,000 as a co-contribution to be matched by applicants.
- 2.2 An amount of \$1.9 million has been made available to fund grants under Round Two of the Scheme.
- 2.3 Grants are subject to the availability of funding and applying for a grant is no guarantee funding will be approved.

3. Applicant criteria

- 3.1 The following entities or combination of entities are eligible to be considered for a grant under the Scheme:
 - a) a *medium sized business*;
 - b) an association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981;
 - c) a cooperative registered under the Cooperatives Act 1997;
 - d) an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cwlth);
 - e) a *primary producer*;
 - f) an entity established to represent either:
 - i. primary producers; or
 - ii. primary production enterprises;
 - g) a university in Queensland;

- h) a tertiary education institution, or another institution or organisation that provides vocational training in Queensland; or
- i) a local government.

3.2 To be eligible applicants must also:

- a) be able to provide an equal cash contribution to match at least the grant requested;
- b) have adequate experience or qualifications and have reasonable prospects of successfully carrying out the activity;
- c) demonstrate the activity has sound prospects and commercial viability in the long term;
- d) have not received funding under the scheme for a substantially similar activity;
- e) have not received other *government funding* for the activity; and
- f) demonstrate the activity will provide a significant economic benefit to the stated rural area.

4. Eligible activities

4.1 Grant funding may be used for an *eligible activity*, including, but not limited to:

- a) developing a new market for a product derived from sheep and goats; or
- b) expanding the capabilities of businesses within the supply chain for production, processing, manufacturing or selling products derived from sheep or goats; or
- c) providing specialised training or equipment to an *eligible primary production enterprise*.

5. How funding may not be used

5.1 Grant funding may not be used for the following activities:

- a) funding an activity which has already commenced, or been completed;
- b) funding an activity associated with installing or maintaining cluster fencing or predator-proof fencing;
- c) making payments towards debt;
- d) purchasing land;
- e) undertaking training and paying professional costs which are not related to the eligible project activity to which the application relates;
- f) conducting feasibility studies; or
- g) paying administration costs.

6. Funding arrangements

6.1 If your application is successful, you will be required to enter into a legally binding letter of offer with the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA). This agreement includes undertakings relevant to disclosure of the approval, agreed set of milestones and reporting requirements, including a completion report.

6.2 Payments will be made to agreed milestones within the funding agreement.

6.3 The activity should commence within 90 days of entering into a funding agreement.

7. How to apply

7.1 To be considered for a grant you must submit an expression of interest (EOI) form available from QRIDA's website before the EOI closing date (see Section 10).

7.2 If your EOI is successful QRIDA will invite you to submit a full application and provide you with an application pack. All applicants will receive written notice of the decision, regardless of outcome.

- 7.3 EOIs or applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.
- 7.4 QRIDA may request further information to help assess your EOI or application.
- 7.5 Penalties apply for providing false and misleading information in accordance with the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

8. How EOIs and applications are assessed

- 8.1 EOIs and full applications will be assessed on a competitive basis to the criteria outlined and there is no guarantee of approval at any stage of the assessment process.
- 8.2 Funding amounts offered will be determined by QRIDA and offers may not be to the full amount requested.

9. How applications are decided

- 9.1 Eligible projects which demonstrate the highest economic benefit to the relevant rural area will be selected for funding until available funds for the round are exhausted.

10. Key dates for Round Two

23 February 2023	Expressions of Interest open.
31 March 2023	Expressions of Interest close at 11:59 pm.
01 May 2023	EOI outcomes will be advised by this date and successful submissions will receive an invitation to submit a full application including an application pack.
02 June 2023	Applications to apply close at 11:59 pm.
17 July 2023	Applicants will be notified of application outcomes by this date. Following this, successful applicants will be announced by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.
Upon approval and funding agreement	Successful applicants will receive funding to agreed milestones as their project progresses.

11. Conflict of interest

- 11.1 A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if your private interests' conflict with your obligations under the agreement. Conflicts of interest could affect the awarding or performance of your agreement. A conflict of interest can be:

- real (or actual);
- apparent (or perceived); or
- potential.

- 11.2 We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your agreement, you must inform us in writing immediately.

12. Fraudulent applications

- 12.1 QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be assessed and investigated, which may require involvement of external parties such as Queensland Police Service (QPS) or Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

13. Privacy

13.1 QRIDA's Privacy Policy, available at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects uses, and discloses individuals' personal information.

13.2 The application portal for this Scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used and disclosed.

14. More information

14.1 For more information on the Rural Agricultural Development (sheep and goats) Grants Scheme – Round 2 contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au

15. Definitions

Eligible activity means an activity the authority is satisfied will create employment relating to, or increase sales or the value of products or material derived from, an *eligible primary production enterprise*.

Eligible primary production enterprise means a primary production enterprise that

- a) is located in a *relevant rural area*; and
- b) involves 50 or more sheep or goats, in any combination.

Full-time employee means an individual who ordinarily works for at least 35 hours each week for the business.

Government funding means financial assistance, other than a loan, provided by the Commonwealth government, the government of a State or a local government.

Primary producer means:

- a) a sole trader who spends the majority of the trader's labour on, and derives the majority of the trader's income from, a primary production enterprise; or
- b) a partner in a partnership that carries on primary production enterprise, if the partner spends the majority of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from, the enterprise; or
- c) a shareholder in a propriety company that carries on a primary production enterprise if the shareholder spends the majority of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from, the enterprise; or
- d) a beneficiary of a trust that carries on a primary production enterprise, if the beneficiary spends the majority of their labour on, and derives the majority of their income from, the enterprise.

Primary production enterprise means a business:

- a) that involves primary production, including the agricultural and grazing industries; and;
- b) for which an entity holds an Australian Business Number.

Medium sized business is a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company which holds an ABN, is registered for GST, employs fewer than 250 *full-time employees* (or 250 FTE equivalents) and is not operated by a public company. *Equivalent full-time employees* can be determined using the following formula:

$$E = F + \frac{P}{35}$$

E means the number of equivalent *full-time, employees* of the business.

F means the number of *full-time employees* of the business.

P means the total number of hours worked each week by employees who do not work full-time for the business.

Relevant rural area means an area in Queensland, other than any of the following local government areas:

- a) City of Brisbane
- b) Ipswich
- c) Logan
- d) Redland.