

Strategic Industry Partnership Program - Stream One

Guidelines

August 2021

I. Background

I.1. Program Description

The Tasmanian Government's *Accelerating Agriculture* policy commitment is investing almost \$50 million to propel the sector towards our bold target of an annual farmgate value of \$10 billion by 2050. As part of the commitment, a total of \$2 million has been allocated over four years through the Strategic Industry Partnership Program (SIPP) to partner with agriculture industry associations to deliver sustainable growth.

The SIPP provides targeted grants on a co-investment basis to peak industry bodies and organisations in recognition of the critical role they play in supporting agri-food industries and individual producers and agribusinesses.

Projects that are aligned with *Tasmania's Sustainable Agri-Food Plan 2019-23*, the *Competitiveness of Agriculture for 2050 White Paper*, and the *Rural Water Use Strategy* will be well regarded.

Additional priorities for this second round include:

- Helping to address barriers and accelerate sustainable growth within industry;
- Creating innovative solutions to support industry with climate-smart agricultural practices and the wise use of water.

The program is being administered by AgriGrowth Tasmania within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

I.2. Grants

This is the first funding round for this new funding commitment. Applications for projects spanning one year or multiple years will be considered.

The minimum government investment is \$10 000 with most projects expected to be less than \$100 000. Exceptions may be considered for collaborative projects across multiple agricultural industries or with broad member benefits demonstrated.

Applications will be subject to merit assessment with the assessment panel considering:

- Strategic alignment;
- Expected outputs and outcomes;
- Value for money;
- Identified need; and
- Co-contribution (co-investment) and leverage.

I.3. Project conditions

The following are conditions of application:

- You must use the template provided to complete your submission;
- Grant submissions must include a project plan outlining activities proposed and milestones;
- Any funded activity must take a whole-of-industry, market or value-chain approach and not just focus on or benefit an individual enterprise;
- The project plan must include the monitoring and evaluation activity that will be undertaken as part of the project;
- Cash and in-kind co-contributions are required;
- A breakdown of service delivery costs will be requested if your proposal is successful; and
- The instalment schedule for payment of the Grants will be agreed with the successful recipient/s based on the activities proposed.

I.4. Eligibility

The assessment panel will make a decision on the application presented and the eligibility of expense items. An organisation is eligible to apply for funding under the Program if it:

- Is a representative, membership-based peak industry body in the agriculture sector with individual businesses as members;
- Is capable of entering into a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the Tasmanian Government;
- Has an ABN and is registered for the purposes of GST, or if not registered for GST can complete a Australian Taxation Office Statement by a Supplier form; and
- Has an account with an Australian financial institution.

Complying with the eligibility criteria is only part of the application assessment process (refer to the Evaluation Methodology) and does not automatically mean an application to the Program will be approved.

Applicants are encouraged to consider working with new partners (such as those along the value-chain, and those outside of agriculture).

I.5. Ineligible expenditure

Ineligible organisations and expenditure include:

- Unincorporated associations;
- Applications from individual businesses, or projects that have a private benefit for an individual business;
- Any government body including councils, government agencies, publicly listed companies, government business enterprises, absentee landlords, forest activities and recreational activities;

- Retrospective expenditure. Applicants must receive grant approval prior to the Project for which funding is sought takes place;
- Any entity that is under external administration or bankruptcy;
- Expenditure on similar Projects or activities that have been, or will be, supported through other government assistance schemes will generally be ineligible;
- Operating expenses, such as funding of an ongoing employee or related-party wages and salaries, utilities, rent, insurance and vehicle expenditure will generally be considered ineligible; and
- Funding cannot be spent on purchasing stock, maintenance and upkeep of facilities and equipment, capital expenditure including on-farm accommodation, development of intellectual property (IP), research, subsidies for commercial operations, business start-ups or where the primary activity is for commercial gain, or activities designed to raise revenue for an organisation or individual, business as usual activities for the participants or beneficiaries of the project, overseas travel, or costs incurred in preparation of the grant application.

2. Evaluation Methodology

Grants will be evaluated by the Fund Steering Committee against a set of weighted criteria. The criteria for assessment include:

1. Strategic alignment
2. Expected outputs and outcomes (including assessment of feasibility and timeliness)
3. Value for money
4. Identified need
5. Co-contribution (co-investment) and leverage.

In-kind contributions should reflect reasonable costs for goods and services. The resulting normalised scores for each criterion will be added to deliver an overall ranking of successful applications to be funded.

The scoring scale used is:

- 0 = criterion not met
- 1 = criterion not met, but a few elements present
- 2 = criterion not met, but most elements present
- 3 = criterion met
- 4 = criterion met to a high standard
- 5 = criterion met to a very high standard

AgriGrowth Tasmania is not bound to accept any application and reserves the right to change the application and selection process and vary the selection criteria.

AgriGrowth Tasmania may seek to negotiate with you before awarding a grant if the Assessment Panel requires changes to your project plan.

3. Reporting Requirements

Reporting the Project's progress and outcomes is an important component of the program. It provides evidence of the effectiveness of projects, and learnings on innovative delivery methods. Reporting is mandatory.

Successful applicants are required to submit a:

- Mid-project report outlining:
 - What results have been achieved to date?
- Final report and evaluation including:
 - What were the successes?
 - What were the challenges?
 - How successful was the Project in meeting and addressing its objectives?
 - How did the Project meet the Program priorities?
- Financial acquittal of the grant monies
- A minimum of one (1) case study for use by DPIPWE during or at the end of the Project.

4. Definitions

Activity or Project means the activity or activities which is/are the subject of a funding application under the Program.

Eligible Expenditure is expenditure presented in an application and approved by the Department.

Funding Agreement means a Funding Agreement entered into between an approved applicant and the Crown in Right of Tasmania.

Peak Body means a representative, membership-based peak industry body in the agriculture sector with individual businesses as members.

Program means the Strategic Industry Partnership Program – Stream One

5. Taxation and financial implications

Grants under the Program attract GST. Grant payments to successful applicants are generally increased to compensate for the amount of GST payable. The receipt of funding from this Program may be treated as income by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). While grants are typically treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the recipient's particular circumstances. It is strongly recommended that potential applicants consider seeking independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving the Grant under the Program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the ATO, prior to submitting an application.

6. Confidentiality

The relevant parties will use and disclose the information provided by applicants for the purposes of discharging their respective functions under the Program Guidelines and otherwise for the purposes of the Program and related uses. The Department may also:

- Use information received in applications in other related Departmental business.
- Use information received in applications and during the performance of the Project for reporting.

7. Disclaimer

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains. The Crown in Right of Tasmania accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise from anything contained in or omitted from or that may arise from the use of this document, and any person relying on this document and the information it contains does so at their own risk absolutely. The Crown in Right of Tasmania does not accept liability or responsibility for any loss incurred by an applicant that are in any way related to the Program. The Program will be reviewed in 12 months and these Guidelines may be adjusted accordingly.

8. How to make a Grant submission

All applicants are encouraged to contact FarmPoint to register their interest in the Program and determine their eligibility.

The Grant Guidelines and standard project template to be used for submissions are available online at <https://dipwwe.tas.gov.au/> or by phoning FarmPoint on 1300 292 292.

The Program opens on Saturday **28 August 2021** and closes on **30 September 2021**.

All submissions will be treated as confidential.

Email your submission to agrigrowth@dipwwe.tas.gov.au, or send hard copies to:

The Project Team: Strategic Industry Partnership Program
AGRIGROWTH TASMANIA
GPO Box 44
HOBART TAS 7001

The successful recipients and the project summary will be announced online at www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au.

For further information and advice, please contact: FarmPoint on 1300 292 292.