

A graphic illustration of several stylized fish swimming in waves, rendered in a light blue color against a darker blue background. The fish are positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

Guideline for Queensland's Fishing Infrastructure Grants Program

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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 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

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1 About Queensland's Fishing Infrastructure Grants Program

Purpose

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

The Queensland Government is administering this Program on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. It is subject to availability of Commonwealth funding and may be time-limited by the availability of this funding.

The Program is limited to local councils and must be spent on infrastructure and facilities that will improve the recreational fishing, boating or camping experience in Queensland.

Funding limit

\$949,000 funding is available for the 2021-22 grant round. To ensure the benefits are maximised across Queensland, priority will be afforded to proposals for below \$100,000 per grant application, that include co-contribution by the applicant.

Note: additional funding rounds may be initiated to ensure all funds are expended and priorities are addressed.

Outcome announcement: It is anticipated successful applicants will be announced before the end of 2021.

Grant delivery: Grant projects must be delivered and acquitted within a 12-month period following approval. This is a requirement with which successful applicants must be able to comply.

2 Background

The Commonwealth Government has provided the Queensland Government with funding for local councils to deliver new or improved infrastructure directly related to recreational fishing, boating and camping.

Recreational fishing, boating and camping activities are integral parts of Queensland lifestyles and are important for regional economic development through tourism across the state. Approximately 660,000¹ Queenslanders fish for recreation and over 260,000² boats are registered in Queensland. Many Queenslanders enjoy camping while undertaking these activities for recreation. These activities also support a range of tourism experiences to encourage Australians to visit Queensland.

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

² Queensland Regulated Ship Census 2019, Department of Transport and Main Roads

3 Applicant Eligibility

This Program is open to all local councils and regional councils in Queensland. Only councils will be funded under the program and will be responsible for undertaking the activity.

Councils are strongly encouraged to work with not-for-profit community organisations to identify community needs and submit applications with community support.

To be eligible the project must be directly related to recreational fishing, boating and/or camping facilities and infrastructure.

4 Scope of funding and assessment criteria

The following table identifies possible projects that are likely to be eligible for funding:

Criterion	Project examples
Recreational fishing	Fish cleaning stations, recreational tackle bins, recreational fishing pontoons, educational signs, fish aggregating devices, fishway barrier works
Recreational boating	Boat launching ramps, marine rescue facilities, boat wharves, boating pontoons, floating walkways, jetties and other boating infrastructure, improved facilities (e.g. shelter, lights), safety infrastructure (e.g. CCTV), improvements to accessibility of boating infrastructure
Camping	Improvements to campgrounds (e.g. amenities, lights, electricity or water access), communal facilities (e.g. picnic and rest areas, shade and shelters), footpaths, barbecues, landscaping

Note: other approvals may be required (for example, but not necessarily limited to development approvals or tidal or coastal works through agencies such as State Assessment and Referral Agency, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Department of Environment and Science, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority). The details of these, and any pre-lodgement advice received in relation to the proposal, should be included in your application.

Out of scope projects and activities

The Program is unable to fund:

- Infrastructure or facilities not directly associated with recreational fishing, boating or camping
- Activities or projects that are not infrastructure or facilities
- Infrastructure or facilities for a group's exclusive use. This includes requests for funding for facilities only available to a particular club's members
- On ground projects on private land or land with no free public access. Infrastructure or facilities with exclusive access

- General operating costs not directly associated with improved or enhanced infrastructure or facilities
- Commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose
- Ongoing maintenance e.g. dredging or general repairs and maintenance of fishing and boating infrastructure
- Projects with DAF or departmental staff involvement
- Projects or activities using grant money to fund staff wages or salaries.

5 Assessment criteria

An assessment panel, appointed by DAF, will assess applications against the following criteria:

- The extent of the benefit the project will provide to recreational fishing, boating or camping in Queensland
- The level of co-investment or co-contributions by the applicant
- The amount of community support, demand or need for the project
- Pre-lodgement advice on required assessable or accepted development approvals.

Other factors that may increase your chance of success

- The extent of contribution to post COVID-19 social and economic recovery
- The geographical location of the grant project, noting, 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.

Applications will primarily be assessed on the benefit they provide to recreational fishing, boating or camping in Queensland. Projects that will deliver the clearest and greatest benefit and that can demonstrate community support or demand are more likely to be funded.

Applicants that contribute other funding sources, including in-kind contributions, towards a project and provide value for money are likely to be assessed more favourably.

In addition to the criteria outlined above, the Queensland Government is interested in applications that contribute to regional economic and social recovery post COVID-19 or that support key industries, such as tourism, that have been impacted by COVID-19.

6 Other requirements and considerations

The project should:

- Provide a clear benefit to the recreational fishing, boating or camping experience in Queensland by delivering new or improved infrastructure
- Represent value for money by incorporating other contributing funding or 'in-kind' contribution
- Have community support.

The applicant should:

- Have appropriate expertise within the project team to complete the project
- Provide evidence that the project is technically sound and utilises best practice
- Commit to undertaking and completing the project in 12 months, including providing methodology and milestones
- Be prepared to enter into agreement with DAF and commit to the terms and conditions to enable funds to be dispersed
- Submit written reports on completed milestones and submit invoices and financial acquittals as a condition of receiving funding
- Submit a final report on the project within 60 days of completing the project
- Acknowledge the Queensland Government and Commonwealth Government's funding support in any project publications, signage and any other marketing or promotional materials.

Responsibility of successful applicants:

- Ensure that successful projects that include any new or improved infrastructure and/or facilities comply with the appropriate Australian standards
- Ensure that, where applicable, successful projects use accredited builders or contractors under the *Australian Government Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme* and the *Building Code 2016*. This includes any relevant Queensland building and construction requirements and standards
- Ensure that successful projects have the appropriate approvals in place under any relevant legislation (e.g. development approvals) and are delivered with the agreed grant period of 12 months.

7 Deciding how grant funds are spent

Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel against these guidelines and selection criteria.

The assessment panel will include members from DAF and appropriate government partner agencies. The assessment panel will declare any conflicts of interest. Where a conflict of interest exists, the relevant member of the panel will abstain from participating in the assessment of the project application in question.

The assessment panel will make a recommendation to the Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry, for consideration and endorsement for funding. 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. Following this, the Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities will announce successful applicants and DAF will progress payments.

8 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.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

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

9 Annual Report

At the end of twelve month grant period, Fisheries Queensland will prepare an annual report outlining how the grant funding was spent.