



Value-Add Agribusiness Investment Attraction Fund

Guidelines for Applicants

At a glance

The Value-Add Agribusiness Investment Attraction Fund (the Fund) aims to assist agribusinesses to confidently invest in new projects, expansion opportunities and adoption of innovative technologies that will build competitiveness and create jobs.

The Fund is targeted at businesses investing in projects that undertake value added processing and can demonstrate benefits to regional Western Australia.

The \$1.5 million Fund will provide two streams:

- **Capital Investment Funding - \$1,000,000.**

Grants up to \$300,000 towards capital expenditure that supports agribusinesses to invest in expansion or diversification of business operations or new projects and facilities that add value through processing.

Successful applicants for Capital Investment Funding assistance grants will be required to make a cash contribution which should match or exceed the amount of the requested grant.

Projects funded under this stream must be completed by 30 June 2020.

- **Approvals, Feasibility and Business Plan Funding - \$500,000.**

Grants of up to \$100,000 towards the cost of de-risking potential agribusiness investments in expansion or diversification of business operations, or new projects and facilities that add value through processing.

Grants under this stream support the costs associated with development of feasibility studies, business plans, obtaining regulatory approvals and other services necessary to de-risk a project, and support an investment decision.

Feasibility studies funded under this stream must be completed by 30 June 2019.

Applicants can only apply for **ONE** of the above grant streams.

The opening date for applications is **24 August 2018**.

The closing date for applications is **5:00PM (WST) on 19 October 2018**.

Objective of the Fund

1. Attract and facilitate agribusiness investment in value added processing.
2. Support high growth agribusinesses that can create jobs.
3. Support agribusiness diversification.
4. Provide benefits to regional Western Australia.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants that meet all of the following criteria are eligible to apply.

1. Australian private sector businesses with an Australian Business Number (ABN), registered for GST and that are capable of entering into a legally binding agreement with the Western Australian Government.
2. The applicant's main source of revenue (50 percent or more) should be derived from the production or processing of agriculture, food or beverage products.
3. The applicant must have been in operation for a minimum of two years.

Business clusters are also encouraged to apply where a lead business that meets the above criteria applies and accepts responsibility for contractual obligations on behalf of the business group.

Activities That Will Be Considered for Capital Investment Funding

Capital Investment Funding assistance may be available for:

- new investment or bringing forward investment in value added processing located in WA that creates jobs;
- investment that enables expansion or diversification of business operations that add value through the production process;
- investment in new manufacturing capability, processing or production facilities, new technology or plant modernisation which results in business growth and jobs creation;
- businesses to move to, or expand into, regional Western Australia.

Activities That Will Be Considered for Approvals, Feasibility and Business Plan Funding

Regulatory Approval, Feasibility and Business Plan Funding assistance may be available to support and de-risk project investment decision making including:

- technical consultants;
- professional services including, accounting, tax, legal and other services;
- property related services including architects, planners, designers and valuers;
- product or market analysts and advisors;
- specialist reports and data services as may be applicable;
- other advisors or relevant service providers.
- obtaining regulatory approval;
- obtaining licences necessary to grow operations.

Activities That Will Not be Considered for Funding

- Projects that are not located in WA.
- Purchase of land.
- Study tours/fact finding missions.
- Preparation of grant application materials.
- Core business expenses not directly related to the proposed project.
- Business entertainment expenses.
- Protecting or patenting intellectual property.
- Relocation of employees.
- Repair or connection to infrastructure or major equipment that could be considered part of normal business or ongoing operations.
- Start-up and early stage business planning and feasibility.

Prior to Submitting an Application

Prior to submitting an application, applicants are advised to:

- read the application guidelines to establish eligibility, and
- discuss the proposed Project with the DPIRD officers identified below.

Preparing an Application and Selection Criteria

When completing the online application form applicants should address the following selection criteria. Applicants for the Approvals, Feasibility and Business Plan Funding assistance stream should also complete these details in regard to the underlying project for which a feasibility study or similar may be developed using the grant funds.

1. Project Summary

Including:

- description of the project
- reasons for undertaking the project
- location of the project
- indicative costs and timeframes for the project

2. Direct Economic Benefits

How the Project will:

- benefit your business operation.
- increase value added production;
- generate additional revenue, or exports;
- enable access to new markets;
- create or retain direct employment or increase potential for direct employment;
- generate potential long-term benefits that continue after funding has ceased.

3. Indirect Economic Benefits

How the project will:

- complement or create an added incentive for other investment to occur, e.g. through the creation of critical mass of an industry sector or through the potential attraction of an industry partner;
- create any benefits for any other groups such as suppliers, transport operators or other service providers;

- create indirect employment if applicable, e.g. during construction or associated with the supply chain or other services;
- deliver innovation or productivity benefits e.g. through the introduction of new technology, enhancement of employee skills, improved safety, new management techniques or raising the value of outputs.

4. Regional Benefits

How the Project will

- create any direct benefits for regional Western Australia;

5. Other Benefits

Applicants should demonstrate any:

- relevant industry or community support for the project;
- environmental, social or other benefits.

6. Project Feasibility

Applications should demonstrate:

- that any regulatory requirements including planning and environmental issues have been identified;
- the estimated timeframes for the planning, development, approval and implementation of the project;
- that Project risks have been identified and strategies developed to manage them.

7. Viability of Applicant

Applicants should demonstrate their:

- capacity, capability and commitment to undertake the project successfully and outline any other project funding sources including contributions from the commonwealth or local governments, community, private sector or other organisations.

Documentation to support the application eg equipment costs, construction costs, feasibility studies, business plans or letters of support can be attached to the application.

Applicants may be asked to provide audited financial statements and to demonstrate the ongoing viability of their business operations.

Applications that can demonstrate how the project will contribute to long-term benefits will be regarded more favourably than those with short-term benefits.

Submitting an Application

Applications from eligible organisations must be submitted online using the SmartyGrants application form available at

https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/ValueAdd_Agribusiness_Investment_Attraction_Fund

To be considered for funding, completed applications can be submitted at any time **before 5:00PM (WST) 19 October 2018**. Please note the SmartyGrants system will close automatically at this time and you will not be able to lodge a late application.

Applications received by other means will not be eligible for consideration. If there is a question over whether an application is eligible, the matter will be resolved by the responsible officer (Executive Director, Agribusiness Trade and Food) at The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). There will be no appeal regarding eligibility of late applications.

All applicants will be notified by email that their application has been received.

Assessment and Selection

Applicants will be merit selected based on assessment of their eligibility and the selection criteria detailed above.

DPIRD will manage the Fund and application process and will appoint an independent selection panel with suitable industry, technical and commercial experience to assess the applications and provide funding recommendation advice to DPIRD.

The Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food will make the final funding approval.

Any conflict of interest issues that may apply to any selection panel member will be assessed and managed for each application.

All decisions are final. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application within six weeks of the closing date and will be provided with feedback on request.

Successful applicants will be responsible for the delivery of the project and will be required to enter into a Financial Assistance Agreement with DPIRD that will set out agreed milestones and the terms and conditions applicable to the granting of funds.

Further information

Additional information can be found on the DPIRD website;
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/agribusiness-investment-fund>

Contact

Peter May, DPIRD e: peter.may@dpird.wa.gov.au t: +61 8 6552 2057

Susan Hall, DPIRD e: susan.hall@dpird.wa.gov.au t: +61 8 6552 2064

Terry Burnage, DPIRD e: terry.burnage@dpird.wa.gov.au t: +61 8 6552 1971

For any queries in relation to Smarty Grants:

Chia de Costa, DPIRD e: Chia.DeCosta@dpird.wa.gov.au t: +61 8 9368 3059