



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

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Western Australia.*

Northern Beef Development – Producer Innovation Fast Track (PIFT) Grant Scheme Guidelines

This guideline contains information for applicants and should be read prior to proceeding with the PIFT grant application.

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Northern Beef Development – Producer Innovation Fast Track (PIFT) Grant Scheme

1 Scheme Overview

Northern Beef Development (NBD) is a four year program to support the WA Northern beef industry to:

- Improve sustainability and resilience
- Drive profitability and economic growth, and
- Facilitate industry modernisation and diversification

A key priority of the NBD program is to support producers to drive productivity and profitability across their business land, livestock and labour resources.

As part of the WA State Government \$5.6 million Royalties For Regions, investment in the Northern Beef Industry Strategy, the NBD program will deliver the Producer Innovation Fast Track (PIFT) Grant Scheme to accelerate adoption of proven, regionally relevant research, development and innovation by beef producers in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. This approach supports the WA Covid Recovery Plan, creating regional economic and jobs growth, as well as aligning with the recommendations of the Northern Australian Beef Situation Analysis report completed by CSIRO in 2020 on behalf of the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA).

This \$1 million PIFT Grant Scheme is an incentive based, co-investment Scheme to assist beef cattle producers in the pastoral regions of the Kimberley and Pilbara to accelerate adoption of regionally relevant research and development that drives business efficiency, enhancing productivity and profitability through sustainable management practices.

The Scheme will open for applications at 12:00pm (noon) on 15 October 2022 and will now close at 12.00pm (noon) on 15 February 2023. The maximum funding amount may be reduced if the Scheme is oversubscribed.

Applicants can make multiple applications however a maximum of up to \$20,000 is permitted per ABN. An eligible business must be recognised by the Australian Tax Office as a primary production business, be registered for GST and have a current Australian Business Number (ABN).

1.1 Who can apply for funding?

This Scheme is restricted to applicants from the Kimberley and Pilbara regions with a beef production enterprise operating with a minimum of 500 adult equivalent cattle

- Kimberley region consists of the Shire of Broome, Shire of Derby/West Kimberley, Shire of Halls Creek, and Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley.
- Pilbara region consists of Shire of East Pilbara, Town of Port Hedland, City of Karratha and Shire of Ashburton.

1.2 Activities that can be funded

Under the Scheme approved applicants are eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$20,000 (exclusive of GST) on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The funding must be used by applicants to accelerate adoption of research, development, technology or innovation and can include goods and services; for example feasibility studies, business planning and benchmarking (economic, biosecurity, drought, animal welfare etc), on ground works, genetics, decision support systems, digital systems, engaging consultants and service providers etc and are for the following types of projects:

- business performance and benchmarking
- improving sustainable rangeland management practices
- improving livestock herd performance
- improving labour performance or efficiency.

1.3 Activities that CANNOT be funded

The funding cannot be used for the following:

- business as usual (existing) activities and expenditure
- services provided or goods purchased or work completed by you or your provider prior to 15 March 2023
- ongoing costs incurred after the funding activities are completed (e.g. operating and maintenance costs, subscription costs)
- existing staff salaries for core business activities
- operational overheads (such as rent, insurance, telephone etc).

1.4 Funding limits and timeframes

Under the Scheme, approved applicants are eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of \$20,000 (exclusive of GST) matched by the participant on a dollar for dollar basis. The maximum funding amount may be reduced if the Scheme is oversubscribed.

The PIFT Grant Scheme will support approved projects/activities that are carried out within the period 15 March 2023 to 30 March 2024. An overview of the Scheme timeframe is provided below:

Item	Date	Time
Grant round applications open	15 October 2022	1200 (noon) AWST
Grant round applications close	15 February 2023	1200 (noon) AWST
Application assessment commences	15 February 2023	
Consensus of assessment	25 February 2023	
Applicants notified of outcome	15 March 2023	
Earliest start date of grant activities	15 March 2023	
End of grant date activities	30 March 2024	
Acquittals due	30 September 2024	1200 (noon) AWST

2 Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Applicant eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding applicants must:

- have a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for GST
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- own/operate a beef primary production enterprise with a minimum of 500 adult equivalent cattle <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/rangelands/livestock-equivalents-estimating-stocking-rates-and-grazing-pressure-rangelands-western>
- own/share or sub-lease a pastoral lease in the Kimberley or Pilbara region that is normally used for beef production
- demonstrate their business receives income from a beef enterprise
- demonstrate the majority of the beef primary production business is within Western Australia.

2.2 Applicants who are specifically NOT eligible

Applicants will not be eligible for funding if they are:

- Political parties, charities or religious organisations
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- unincorporated association
- businesses outside of the nominated region or overseas resident/organisation
- seeking capital or recurrent funding.

2.3 Applicant additional information required

Applicants must provide the following information:

- If they are a trustee of a trust, a copy of the trust deed that outlines that the trustee has the authority to make application on behalf of the trust
- Bank account details
- Current Australian Business Number (ABN) applicable to the applicant's primary production business
- Physical and postal addresses
- Contact details
- Proposed enterprise innovation, including:
 - Details of the innovation
 - Total enterprise innovation cost
 - Total amount requested (must be less than or equal to \$20,000 excluding GST)
 - Enterprise innovation timeframe estimates
 - Quotes/estimates from an appropriate and experienced supplier of goods or services confirming total project specifications (including any product brand and type) and location of where the goods and/or services will be installed/located.

2.4 Applicant funding contribution

Applicants are required to match the value of any approved funding up to a maximum of \$20,000 (exclusive of GST).

3 Assessment Criteria

Applications need to be completed in full and will be assessed on the following:

- Eligibility criteria
- Provision of acceptable/compliant quotes/estimates from an appropriate and experienced supplier of goods and/or services confirming total project specifications (including any product brand and type) and location of where the goods and/or services will be installed/located
- Identification of how the product/service relates to the following type/s of project
 - business performance and benchmarking
 - improving sustainable rangeland management practices
 - improving livestock herd performance
 - improving labour performance or efficiency.
- Confirmation of matched cash contribution of a dollar amount at least equal to the requested grant amount for the project.

4 Application - How to apply for funding

The Scheme will open for applications on 15 October 2022 at 1200 (noon) AWST and will now close on 15 February 2023 at 1200 (noon) AWST. Applications will not be able to be submitted after the closing date and time. Applications are to be submitted online via the following link <https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/PIFT>

5 Assessment – How will the applications be assessed

This is a non-competitive Scheme, and therefore assessment will be carried out against the Assessment Criteria listed in section 3. It is important to note that discretionary consideration may be given to an applicant's performance and compliance under other DPIRD Schemes of Assistance.

The assessment process will objectively identify eligible applicants to whom funding may be awarded. The assessment will be completed in a consistent and fair manner by 25 February 2023.

All applicants will be notified of funding decisions on or before 15 March 2023.

5.1 Assessment process

The assessment will be carried out by the Department of Primary Industries and Development. Please note that in the event the Scheme is oversubscribed the maximum amount able to be approved may be reduced from \$20,000.

- The first stage of assessment will determine the eligibility of the applicant under the requirements of the Scheme. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria will result in the application being recommended for decline.
- Eligible applications will be assessed against the Scheme assessment criteria as detailed in Section 3.

6 Conflict of interest

All DPIRD officers involved in processing applications will complete a conflict of interest (COI) declaration. An assessor will not participate in the assessment of applications where there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest. The program sponsor will be responsible for making judgements regarding conflicts of interest.

7 Decision

The Scheme Owner will consider the recommendation made by the assessor and make the final decision on the application. There is no right of appeal for this Scheme.

8 Notification of application outcomes

Notification of successful and unsuccessful applications will take place as soon as practicable on or after 15 March 2023 in the form of an email.

Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer in their notification that details the total amount of funding approved. As soon as approved applicants provide a reply email confirming their acceptance of the offer, they may commence their proposed work/projects.

9 Contract Arrangements

Successful applicants under the Scheme will need to confirm their acceptance of the Letter of Offer before commencing works. The Letter of Offer will also confirm the requirement to participate in an evaluation survey about the Scheme.

Projects and/or activities are expected to be completed between 15 March 2023 and 30 March 2024. Successful applicants will need to submit their claim for reimbursement before 30 September 2024. Grant payments will be made when successful applicants provide DPIRD with:

- Sufficient information on the agreed works/project/activity to indicate that the activity is complete.
- Supporting evidence of installation or completion of the works/project/activity as detailed in the funding approval. This includes evidence of payment for the works and may include photos, reports, executive summary etc.
- A compliant tax invoice to DPIRD for the amount of funds approved in the letter of offer that have been procured on or after the date of notification. (ie. No retrospective funding).

10 Tax information

Funding provided to recipients under the Grant is regarded as payment for a supply. Grant recipients will therefore be liable for GST in connection with the grant.

The grant will be increased by the amount of GST payable. Recipients must provide a tax invoice for the GST inclusive value of the grant. Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining funding.

11 Personal Information and disclosure of information

Applicants are informed that DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*, which provides a general right of access to records held by the State Government agencies and local governments.

12 Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property rights that may exist in an application will remain the property of the applicant or the rightful owner of those intellectual property rights. Any part of an application considered to contain any intellectual property rights should be clearly identified by the applicant. The applicant grants to the State (and will ensure that relevant third parties grant) a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to use and reproduce the intellectual property for the purpose of administering the scheme.

13 Payment arrangements

The payment policy for this program is as follows:

- Payments are made by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Payments are made on provision of a compliant tax invoice
- Payments are made electronically to the bank account nominated by the applicant

14 Contact Information

All enquiries on the Producer Innovation Fast Track Grant Scheme in WA should be emailed to piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au or phone James Hamersley on 0413 565 082.

15 Glossary of Terms

Applicant - the entity who makes the application for funding.

Application - an application made to the State of Western Australia for funding under the Scheme.

AWST - Australian Western Standard Time.

DPIRD - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Guidelines – are the guidelines for the program, this document.

Key Contact - the person to contact if there are any queries or information required in relation to the Scheme.

Scheme Manager - the person responsible for managing the grant scheme.

Scheme Owner - the person responsible for the implementation of the scheme on behalf of DPIRD (the funding provider).

Program Provider - The program provider is DPIRD; the policy owner that establishes the scheme and is ultimately responsible for the scheme's underlying policy and deliverables

Scheme – Producer Innovative Fast Track Grant Scheme(PIFT)

SmartyGrants – is the grant management platform used by DPIRD.