



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

## Frequently Asked Question's (FAQ's)

These FAQ's contain information for applicants to support development of their grant application.

# 1 Frequently Asked Questions

These Frequently Asked Questions apply to grants for the Producer Innovative Fast Track (PIFT) Grant Scheme. Applicants should read this document in conjunction with the **Guidelines for Applicants**.

The Scheme will open for applications on **15 October 2022, 1200 (noon) AWST**

The closing date for applications is **15 February 2023, 1200 (noon) AWST**

## 1 Eligibility

### 1.1 Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible 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
- 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 production business is within Western Australia

### 1.2 My business doesn't have an ABN – can I apply?

No, your business is required to have an ABN to be eligible for this grant.

### 1.3 My business is not registered for GST – can I apply?

No, your business is required to be registered for GST to be eligible for this grant

### 1.4 Can I make an application for each pastoral lease that I own or sub-lease?

No. Applicants will be identified by the registered ABN provided. Each registered business is eligible to receive maximum funding of \$20,000 only.

### **2.1 What is the minimum and maximum funding available per application?**

The maximum amount that will be funded under the Producer Innovative Fast Track (PIFT) grant is \$20,000 (ex. GST) per ABN. There is no minimum amount.

### **2.2 What are the timeframes to commence and complete the project proposed in the application?**

Once the applicant has been notified of their successful application, received and accepted their letter of offer, they will have until 30 March 2024 to complete their innovative works and will need to claim their reimbursement funds before 30 September 2024

### **2.3 What types of activities are eligible for funding?**

The funding shall be used for businesses to adopt new research, development, technology or innovation and can include: capital, feasibility studies, business planning, 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.

### **2.4 What types of activities are NOT eligible for funding?**

The following activities and projects will not be eligible under the Scheme:

- business as usual (existing) activities and expenditure
- services provided or goods purchased or work completed by 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.).

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## Application

### 3.1 How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted online via this link

<https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/PIFT> prior to the closing time and date of 1200 (noon) on 15 February 2023.

### 3.2 Can I fax or email my application in?

No. Applications must be submitted online. If you do not have the resources to do this, please contact us and we will assist you in this process.

### 3.3 How will I know if my application has been received?

Once you have submitted your application you will receive an acknowledgement email from SmartyGrants confirming your application has been submitted and the unique application reference number for this Scheme.

### 3.4 Can I update/revise my application after it has been submitted?

Only if you need to revise your application prior to the closing date, please email [piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au) and provide your application number to have it re-opened. No updates or revisions will be accepted after applications close and your revised application must be resubmitted before the deadline on 15 February 2023 at 1200 (noon) AWST.

### 3.5 I am having difficulties with the SmartyGrants application form, who can I contact?

For technical issues or queries with the SmartyGrants application form, please contact James Hamersley by email on [piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au) or telephone 0413 565 082

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## Grant Value

### 4.1 What is the total amount available for grants under this scheme?

The total amount of funds available for this Scheme is \$1million.

## 4.2 How much do I need to contribute?

Recipients will need to provide a contribution at least equivalent to the amount they are requesting from the grant.

## 4.3 Can my application include collaborator(s)?

Yes, collaborations are encouraged. However, only one application can be made per ABN. Should businesses pursue a broader initiative this should be identified in the application.

## 4.4 What happens if the project cost is more than the maximum amount that I can apply for?

You will be responsible for all out of pocket expenses above the threshold of \$20,000 (ex GST). Any costs that exceed \$20,000 (ex GST) are your responsibility and will not be reimbursed through this program.

# 5 Application Outcome

## 5.1 Will all eligible applicants be successful?

All eligible applicants will be funded. If the PIFT grant scheme is over subscribed a reduced grant amount shall be awarded to all successful applicants.

## 5.2 How long does the approval process take?

Assessments will begin after the application round has closed. It is planned that applicants will be notified of the grant decision from 15 March 2023. In order to achieve this, it is important that the online application form is completed as accurately as possible. Incomplete applications cannot be assessed, however, applicants will be requested to provide the required information.

Any additional information must be provided no later than 15 February 2023. Incomplete applications may be declined.

## 5.3 When will grant funds be made available to successful applicants?

Grant payments shall be made on a reimbursement basis when applicants provide the program with:

- Sufficient information on the agreed PIFT grant activity to indicate that the project is complete.

- Copies of tax invoices, statements and any other suitable proof of payment/s including bank statements.
- Projects are expected to be completed by 30 March 2024, with proof of payment being submitted before 30 September 2024.
- Please note that the maximum you can be paid is 50% the total cost of the agreed works/project/activity up to a maximum of the amount of funds approved.

Once these documents have been received, the funds will be transferred to the applicants nominated bank account within 25 days of approval.

## 5.4 Will I be expected to share what I have learnt once I have implemented my Producer Innovation Fast-Track Grant?

We encourage applicants to network and share what they have learnt through this program for the advancement of the northern beef industry. We are seeking pastoralists to participate in testimonials, case studies, short videos, and other activities to highlight the opportunities to improve productivity and profitability in the northern beef industry with the aim to accelerate adoption of proven, regionally relevant research and development.

There will also be a PIFT grant scheme evaluation survey for all approved grant recipients to complete to inform and guide future grant schemes.

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## Have another question?

Get in touch with James Hamersely on 0413 565 082 or email [piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:piftgrant@dpird.wa.gov.au)

### Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.