

GUIDELINES FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO UNDERTAKE FARM DEMONSTRATION OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICES ROUND 3

As part of the Northern Agriculture Catchment Council's (NACC) sustainable farming program, expressions of interest are now being sought for the establishment of farming demonstration sites within the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR).

These Guidelines provide information about the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's (NACC) Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the delivery of these demonstration sites.

AIM

To establish farming demonstrations in the NAR that demonstrate innovative practices which address any, or a combination of, the following issues:

- Salinity;
- Nutrient management;
- Non-wetting soils;
- Herbicide resistance;
- Adaptation to climate variability;
- Erosion;
- Soil Health;
- Pests and Weeds;

and any natural resource management issues. NACC is keen to work directly with the community to establish sites that represent a range of practices located across different landscapes, soils and farming systems.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- You can apply for **up to \$30,000** per demonstration EOI;
- Demonstrations from Round 3 of the EOI process are to be **completed by 26 May 2017**;
- Multiple applications are encouraged, however please submit a separate application form for each demonstration EOI;
- Technical support will be funded where these expenses are justified within the application as necessary for delivery of the project, adds value to the project, and are a reasonable expense against the on ground activities to be delivered.
- Successful applicants will sign a contract with NACC which will detail the payment schedule and reporting requirements and dates;
- 3 month progress reporting, a demonstration design summary and a final report will be required to be completed for contracted demonstration sites. NACC will provide templates for these and support where necessary;
- Demonstrations require the inclusion of activities that will promote the knowledge and results from the demonstration to the wider community and support practice change where appropriate. This may include but is not limited to: field days, case studies, videos and media articles. Where

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the applicant does not have the ability to directly coordinate these activities you are encouraged to work with local groups or organisations on these activities, or otherwise contact NACC to discuss how we can support you;

- Successful applicants will need to work cooperatively with NACC in the coordination and delivery of extension activities related to the demonstration;
- All properties that host a demonstration will have a free Whole Farm NRM Plan, developed by NACC, to provide the landholder with a blueprint for managing the natural resources on their property for the future. If the EOI applicant is not the landholder, it will be the applicant's responsibility to get the landholder's agreement for participation in this activity;
- In submitting an EOI, the applicant agrees that data and information collected by the project can be used for future NACC purposes. General information about the demonstration will be added to the website <http://www.agtrialsites.com/>
- **EOI for Round 3 must be received by 5pm WST Monday 31 August 2015.**

WHO CAN APPLY?

NACC is accepting expressions of interest from groups and individuals including:

- Farmers and land managers;
- Not-for-profit organisations or community groups (such as local grower groups, LCDCs, local catchment management groups, etc.);
- Industry bodies, government agencies, and organisations.

OBJECTIVES

Your project will need to address the following objectives:

- Establish projects that demonstrate innovative practices that address any or a combination of the following issues:
 - Salinity;
 - Nutrient management;
 - Non-wetting soils;
 - Herbicide resistance;
 - Erosion;
 - Adaptation to climate variability;
 - Soil health
 - Pests and Weeds
 - Other practices that alleviate natural resource management issues.
- Contribute to improving natural resource management in the NAR;
- Increase knowledge, skills and engagement within the community.



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INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

NACC will not fund:

- Demonstrations which are already funded through other organisations or grants;
- Demonstrations run on agricultural land outside of the Northern Agricultural Region;
- Asset purchases such as plant and equipment (i.e. purchase of any plant or equipment with a total value more than \$2,000);
- Administration costs or general management costs that **exceed** 10% of the funding sought;
- Activities that do not demonstrate their ability to meet the objectives as listed above.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

EOI's will be assessed by an assessment panel. Projects will be ranked and awarded funds based on this assessment of your EOI and the availability of funding.

Each submission will be assessed on its merits based on the questions contained in the application form and in consideration of the following:

- Eligibility
 - Make sure you read the guidelines carefully. Are you eligible? Will you be able to deliver the activities in your application and meet the requirements of the project? If not who will help?
- Innovation
 - Is the information already easily available? Has this been done before in the NAR? Has something similar already been funded through this grant? Will this add to local landholder knowledge? If previous trials/demonstrations on this topic have been unsuccessful, what will you be doing that might lead to a different result?
- Contribution to improved natural resource management
 - How does the project protect or enhance natural resources on agricultural land into the future? Are there any potential negative environmental impacts from the activity?
- Proposed methodology and monitoring
 - Be clear about what you will do and how. Why have you chosen this method/treatment/equipment? If you are looking at different treatments; what are they? Are they replicated? Over what area is each treatment?
- Communication about demonstration to the broader community
 - How will you communicate? Who to? Will you work with other groups, organisations or individuals?
- Value for money
 - How do on ground activities balance against other costs in your project? Have you clearly justified expenses within your application where they may appear unusual or excessive?



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If the applicant is looking at submitting an EOI for the same innovation across multiple sites, unless this is submitted as a single EOI there is no guarantee that all sites will be funded through this process. Individual EOIs will be assessed and ranked against other EOIs.

DELIVERING YOUR PROJECT

If you are successful in being awarded project funding you will be required to:

1. Sign a contract with NACC which will detail payment schedule and progress reporting requirements and dates;
2. Provide NACC with property and landholder details for the site/s of the demonstration (where they differ from the application);
3. Complete a progress report for each 3 month period of the demonstration trial and a final report on completion of all activities. NACC will provide due dates and templates for these to successful applicants;
4. Complete a demonstration design summary. NACC will provide templates for this and support where necessary;
5. Work cooperatively with NACC in the coordination and delivery of extension activities related to the demonstration. These may or may not be at the demonstration trial site. All activities must appropriately recognise NACC and the Australian Government contribution to the project;
6. Invoice NACC for the project funding requested (instructions for this will be sent to you at the time of notification of your successful application);
7. Meet with NACC representatives when requested to demonstrate progress of your project at intervals throughout the demonstration.

Please read these guidelines carefully before submitting an application.

This project has limited funding and NACC may not be able to fund all applications submitted. If your project is not funded we encourage you to consider applying in future rounds, taking into account the feedback provided.

You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application via email. If you have **not received this confirmation within a week of the closing date please contact NACC to follow up.**



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QUESTIONS ABOUT ELIGIBILITY OR THE APPLICATION PROCESS

If you would like to discuss the guidelines or your proposal further, or you would like assistance in developing your application, please contact the Natural Resource Management Officer (NRMO) in your area or the Regional Landcare Facilitator. Please see contact details below:

NRMO Geraldton Office

Heather Legge
Email: heather.legge@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9938 0103
0427 989 112

NRMOs Perenjori Office

Sarah Gilleland
Email: sarah.gilleland@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9973 1444
0400 457 246

NRMOs Jurien Bay Office

Rodger Walker
Email: rodger.walker@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9652 0872
0408 891 502

Jude Cusworth (part time)

Email: jude.cusworth@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9973 1444
0400 589 209

NRMO Chapman Valley Office

Marieke Jansen (part time)
Email: marieke.jansen@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9920 5011

Lizzie King (part time)

Email: lizzie.king@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9973 1444

Regional Landcare Facilitator

Stanley Yokwe
Email: stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au
Ph: (08) 9938 0105
0428 649 775

EOI must be received **5pm WST Monday 31 August 2015** and can be returned by email, or post to:

Sally Fenner
email: sally.fenner@nacc.com.au
PO Box 7168, Geraldton, 6531

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