



Sustainable Agriculture Supporting Smarter Farms 2018-19

Application Guidelines



**National
Landcare
Program**



These Guidelines provide information about the NACC NRM Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the Supporting Smarter Farms project.

The Supporting Smarter Farms project is supported by NACC, funded by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Program.

AIM

The aim of this tender process is to offer innovative opportunities for landholders in the NAR to address Soil Acidity, Wind Erosion, increase Soil Organic Carbon and improve Native Vegetation and On-Farm biodiversity through a competitive bid process in order to drive innovation and improved land use management. It is integral to continued and successful sustainable agriculture that funded project outcomes are promoted and extended as widely as possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- This round has a total of \$80,000 to fund bids;
- All agreements for project works from Round 1 of the EOI process must be negotiated by 30 May 2019;
- Bids addressing multiple sites and issues present greater value for money and are encouraged;
- Applications will need to provide an expected project commencement and completion date. This date may be negotiated by the assessment panel.
- Successful applicants will sign a contract with NACC which will detail the payment schedule and reporting requirements and dates. Project works will be paid on completion however NACC may, if justified, agree to a small (max 10%) upfront payment;
- NACC will carry out site assessments pre and post establishment of activities, as well as establish longer term (5 year) monitoring to gauge the long term success of works. Successful applicants will need to work cooperatively with NACC in the monitoring of on-ground changes.
- In submitting an EOI, the applicant agrees that data and information collected as part of this EOI process as well as for any funded activity can be used by NACC in the future.
- EOIs must include a simple colour site map which shows:
 - (i) The project area; and
 - (ii) The area(s) that proposed activities will take place.

NACC's online mapping portal located on NARvis can be used to produce this map. This service also allows you to identify the presence of Registered Aboriginal Sites. Instructions for creating and printing a site plan using GIS software can be found online at <http://narvis.com.au/grants/create-a-map/>.

- **Bid's must be received by 5pm WST Friday 26 April 2019**

WHO CAN APPLY?

NACC will accept 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.);

OBJECTIVES

Your project will need to implement activities that will achieve outcomes addressing the issues below. Projects should present good value for money with innovative and 'out of the box' approaches to achieving the proposed outcomes encouraged.

- **Reducing the impact of soil acidity** (20ha)
- **Reducing the impact of wind erosion** (20ha)
- **Increase the potential for storage of soil organic carbon** (20ha)
- **Protect or enhance vegetation and on-farm biodiversity** (20ha)

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

NACC will not fund:

- Works which are already funded through other organisations or grants. NACC may request documentation proving this;
- Sites on agricultural land outside of the Northern Agricultural Region;
- Asset purchases such as plant and equipment (where purchase price of any individual item is greater than \$2,000);
- Administration costs or general management costs;
- Activities that do not demonstrate their ability to meet the objectives as listed above.
- Purchase of lime sand per RLP Terms and Conditions

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Bids will be assessed by an assessment panel. Projects will be ranked and awarded funds based on the assessment of your bid, value for money, innovation (i.e., a new idea being tested), potential for multiple benefits, and the availability of funding.

Each submission will be assessed on its merits based on the information provided in the EOI form and associated site maps and in consideration of the following:

- Innovation and Methodology – projects should take innovative approaches to achieving outcomes and will be assessed on;
 - Contribution to innovation in sustainable agriculture
 - What outcome will be achieved and why the proposed activity is appropriate
 - Likelihood of successfully achieving proposed outcomes and how risks will be mitigated.
- Value for money – Projects should represent good value for money relative to the outcomes to be achieved and will be assessed on;
 - Cost of activity relative to outcome (\$/ha)
 - Ratio of in-kind contribution to requested funds
 - Proposed communication strategies and breadth of information distribution of outcomes, to the broader community

- Contribution to improved natural resource management – Projects will have to contribute to improved natural resource management and will be assessed on;
 - Level at which the activities will contribute to enhancement of natural resources on agricultural land into the future
 - Risk of having a detrimental effect on the environment.

DELIVERING YOUR PROJECT

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

- (i) Sign a contract with NACC which will detail payment schedule and progress reporting requirements and dates;
- (ii) Provide NACC with property and landholder details for the site/s;
- (iii) Allow NACC staff access to the sites to undertake monitoring pre and post activity (NACC will always consult with landholders before visiting a property).
- (iv) Complete an activity design summary. NACC will provide templates for this and support where necessary;

Please read these guidelines carefully before submitting a bid.

This project has limited funding and NACC will 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.**

QUESTIONS ABOUT ELIGIBILITY OR THE APPLICATION PROCESS

If you would like to discuss the guidelines or your proposal further, please contact the Sustainable Agriculture Program Coordinator, contact details below:

Program Coordinator

Callum Love
 Email: callum.love@nacc.com.au
 Ph: (08) 9938 0116
 0438 989 500

NACC Office (Geraldton)

10/114 Sanford street
 Ph: (08) 9938 0100

- **Bids must be received 5pm WST Friday 26 April 2019 and can be returned by email, or post to:**

Callum Love
 email: callum.love@nacc.com.au
 PO Box 7168, Geraldton, 6531