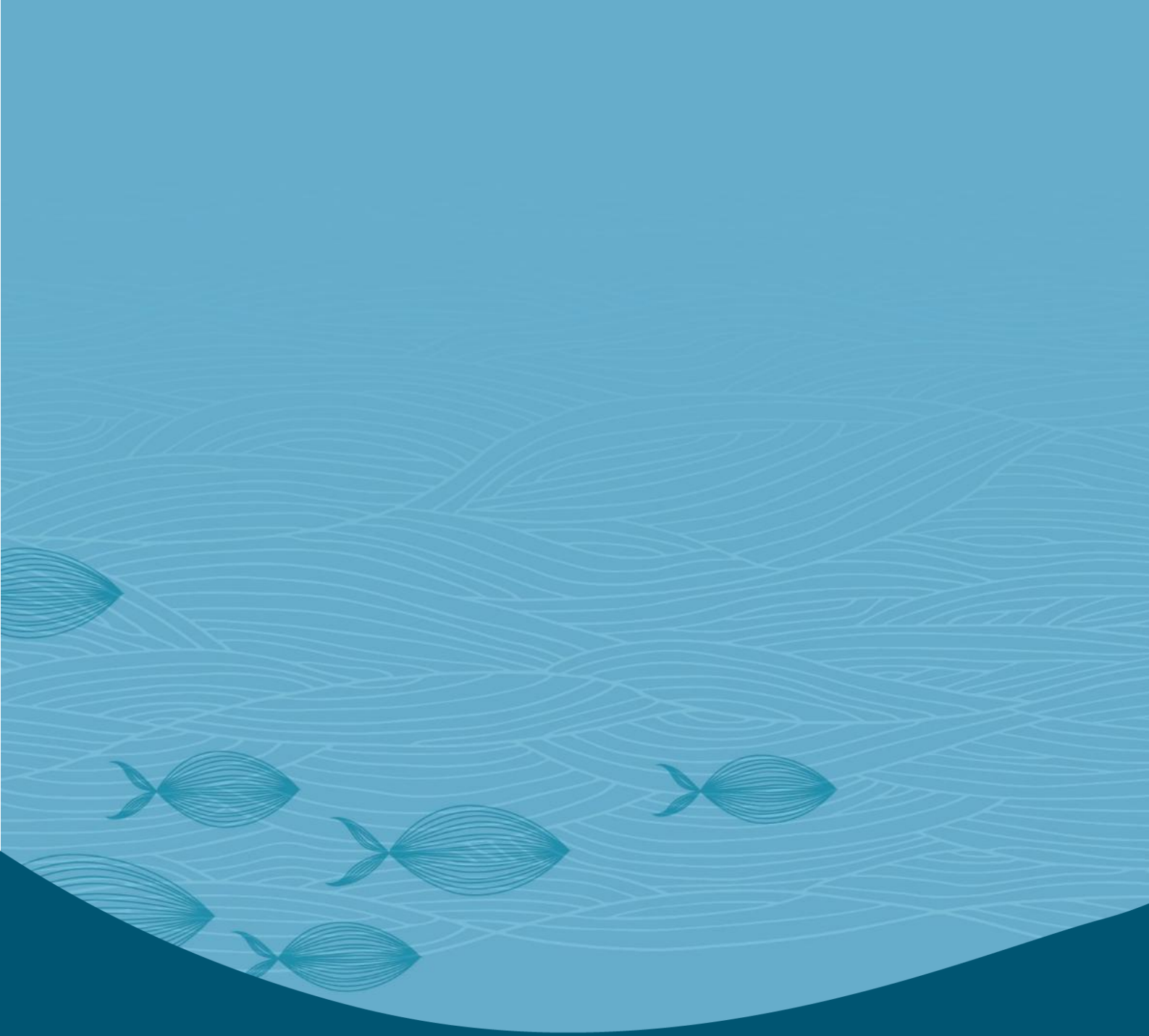


Queensland Community Fishing Grants guideline

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Queensland Government

Please note: When implementing this policy you must consider whether any human rights are engaged under the *Human Rights Act 2019* and whether any limitations on human rights are reasonable and justifiable. If you engage a human right, you should conduct a proportionality assessment under the Act. Additionally, this policy has been reviewed on 08/07/26 to ensure actions and decisions under this policy can be made in a way that is compatible with human rights.

Owner	Title:	Fisheries Management
Endorsed by	Title:	Fisheries Queensland
Approved by	Title:	Director-General responsible for Fisheries

Issue/approval date 08/07/2026

Revision history

Version no.	Approval date	Comments
1.01	14/07/2020	Updated ahead of the 2020/21 grants program to clarify guidelines, update the application process and to include Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples fishing education
1.02	28/07/2021	Updated ahead of 2021/22 and simplify the process for applications requesting small funding amounts. Name change from Guideline for Qld's Recreational Fishing Grants Program
1.03	29/08/2022	Updated dates and figures ahead of 2022/23 and clarified guidelines regarding involvement of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and simplify the process for applications requesting small funding amounts
1.04	18/08/2023	Updated guidelines to further clarify that grant funding cannot be for staff wages or for-profit entities. Removal of wording around COVID-19 recovery. Removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples with First Nations peoples.
1.05	23/08/2024	Updated guidelines to reduce total funding from $250,000 to $200,000.
1.06	02/07/2026	Updated for the 2026/27 grants round, revised dates, funding round timelines, assessment timeframes, and references. Reduced total funding from $200,000 to $100,000. Updated to reflect small grants funding (under $5,000) only.
1.07	20/10/2026	Updated with minor changes to formatting, punctuation, and grammar. Updated that this will be approved by the Director-General responsible for Fisheries. Updated department name to "Department of Primary Industries".

Keywords recreational fishing; traditional fishing; cultural fishing; grants; community grant;

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1 Policy statement

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline how the Queensland Community Fishing Grants Program will operate annually and how funding will be allocated.

2 Background and context

Queenslanders are keen anglers, with approximately 660 000 people participating in fishing for recreation (based on data from the 2019–20 Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey). Fishing is an integral part of Queensland lifestyles and is also important for tourism, attracting anglers from around Australia and the world.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the importance of traditional fishing as a significant cultural activity for First Nations peoples.

This year the Queensland Government will provide up to $100,000 worth of grant funding for small grants of **up to $5,000** for recreational and traditional fishing education activities, including community fishing programs, fishing clinics, and youth-focused events.

3 Criteria and requirements

Applicant eligibility

Community not-for-profit organisations, angling clubs/associations, schools, councils, universities, statutory bodies/government agencies, and incorporated bodies/associations in Queensland are eligible to apply.

Applicants should ensure that projects are delivered independent of the Department of Primary Industries or departmental staff as this may constitute a conflict of interest.

Funding applications must relate to the improvement of recreational or traditional fishing in Queensland. Where applicable, projects should:

- have appropriate expertise within the project team to complete the project.
- represent value for money by incorporating other contributing funding or ‘in-kind’ contribution by the applicant and other project partners.
- be technically sound and utilise best practice.
- link to key strategic recreational fishing objectives and plans.

Scope of funding

To be successful, a project or activity must provide a benefit to recreational or traditional fishing in Queensland. Applications must demonstrate that the proposed project or activity meets at least one of the following criteria.

Criterion	Project examples
Recreational and traditional fishing education and stewardship	Fishing workshops/clinics, schools, education, come-and-try days, fishing education programs, signs explaining sea country, education on First Nations peoples traditional fishing activities, citizen science projects, fish tagging
Fish habitat improvement and protection	Removing barriers to fish migration, replanting and protecting riverbank vegetation, restoring water flows
Monitoring or research – provides linkages, value-adds or fills information gaps for recreational or traditional fishing	Social or economic surveys about fishing, biology or ecology of popular recreational species.

In addition to the broad strategic criteria outlined above, the Queensland Government is interested in applications that address these current recreational fishing priorities:

- contributes to relevant actions under the Queensland Fishing and Seafood Actions under *Prosper 2050 Delivering Now 2026-30* including: how it will support recreational and/or traditional fishing communities, strengthen stewardship, improve access, build capability, promote sustainable fishing practices, or deliver broader social, cultural, environmental, or economic benefits; and/or
- supports the recreational fishing strategies developed by the relevant local government to promote recreational fishing opportunities in the Cairns, Mackay, and Rockhampton net free zones; and/or
- improves understanding of, or supports, traditional or cultural fishing activities of First Nations peoples; and/or
- supports economic growth through non-commercial fishing activities.

Out-of-scope projects and activities

The grants program is **unable** to fund:

- The purchase of equipment for a group's exclusive use or competitions and prizes, giveaways, or alcohol for an event.
- **Companies and other for-profit entities.**
- General operating or travel costs not directly associated with a project/event.
- Stocking fish, including the purchase, transportation, and/or the release of fish for an event – this is funded through the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS).
- Other activities that can be funded through SIPS, including research and monitoring to improve stocking strategies, tagging stocked fish, habitat restoration, and improvement of general facilities.
- Commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose.
- On-ground projects on private land or land with no free public access.
- The business of organisations/clubs, including building club premises or improving club facilities that are only available to club members.
- Research or monitoring that doesn’t deliver tangible, practical benefits for recreational fishing.
- Construction of boat launching ramps, boat wharves, boating pontoons, or other boating infrastructure.
- Construction of general amenities, such as picnic tables, footpaths, toilet blocks, barbecues, shelters, landscaping, and other picnic area enhancements.
- Ongoing maintenance, such as dredging or general repairs and maintenance of fishing and boating infrastructure (this is usually the responsibility of local authorities).
- Projects that provide education about pest fish issues (e.g. fishing competitions on pest fish) – pest fish are managed through Biosecurity Queensland, and education is also funded through SIPS.
- Projects with the Department of Primary Industries or departmental staff involvement.
- Projects or activities using grant money to fund **staff wages or salaries**.

Funding requirements

Organisations that are registered for GST must quote GST-exclusive prices in their project costings, as they are able to recoup the GST paid. Organisations that are not registered for GST will pay GST on goods and services without recouping this GST, and so should quote GST-inclusive prices in their costings.

Organisations are not required to match funding provided through this grant program. However, other contributions towards the project or activity will improve value for money. The application should specify any in-kind contributions (volunteer work, administration, donations) that will support delivery of the project or activity.

4 Assessment process

Receiving applications

Applicants must complete and formally submit an application through the online grants system. A link to the application will be available on the departmental website and is available at dpi.smartygrants.com.au.

Applications that are submitted another way or are not submitted by the deadline will not be considered eligible. Fisheries Queensland may, at its discretion, extend the application period on a case-by-case basis.

Assessing applications

Fisheries Queensland will coordinate the grant application process and administration of funds. Applications will be assessed by the Queensland Community Fishing Grants Evaluation Panel. The evaluation panel will include representatives from Fisheries Queensland and key government agencies.

The evaluation panel will declare any conflicts of interest. If a conflict of interest exists, the relevant member of the evaluation panel will abstain from participating in the assessment of the project application in question.

Assessment criteria

The evaluation panel will assess all applications against the following criteria:

- The extent of benefit to recreational or traditional fishing, and support from recreational fishers or First Nations peoples (i.e. project need).
- Cost-effectiveness, value for money, and sound budgeting.
- The expertise and capability of the applicant/s to deliver the project or activity.
- Whether the project is technically sound.
- How well it links to Queensland's strategic recreational fishing priorities.
- Additional weighting will be given to projects that demonstrate support for regional economic activity.

A recommendation will be provided to the Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry, who will decide on the final grant allocations. In making recommendations on projects to fund, the assessment panel will ensure funding is distributed statewide to provide, as far as possible, opportunities for communities across Queensland.

Notification of outcome

Fisheries Queensland will advise all applicants in writing whether their application was successful. Following this, successful projects will be announced by the Minister for Primary Industries by the end of March 2027, and the name and project of successful grant recipients will be published on the departmental website.

5 Alternative funding

In addition to the Queensland Community Fishing Grants, there are several alternative funding sources across the Queensland Government to consider, including:

- the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, which distributes about $60 million each year to community groups to enhance their capacity to provide services, leisure activities, and opportunities for Queensland communities.
- Advance Queensland, who invest in a stronger economy by providing funding to support programs that drive innovation, build on natural advantages and help raise Queensland's profile as an attractive investment destination.
- the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS), which is administered by Fisheries Queensland to stock over 60 impoundments in Queensland with native fish specifically for recreational fishing with a permit – funding from permits supports fish stocking, habitat improvement, research, and freshwater fishing community engagement for these impoundments.
- the Queensland Government Grants Finder is an online search tool that provides access to Queensland Government funding and grant opportunities.

6 How to apply

An expression-of-interest process will be open for a four-week period.

Applications will only be accepted through the online form available at dpi.smartygrants.com.au.

Applications that are submitted another way or are not submitted by the deadline will not be considered eligible. Fisheries Queensland may, at its discretion, extend the application period on a case-by-case basis.

For assistance completing your application, email fisheriesgrants@dpi.qld.gov.au and an officer will contact you to discuss your application.

7 Successful applicants

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement to enable grant funds to be dispersed and projects to commence. All successful applicants will need to work with Fisheries Queensland to:

- enter into a formal Queensland Community Fishing Grant Agreement.
- submit written reports on completed milestones and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding under the agreement.
- submit a final report on the project within 60 days of completing the project.
- acknowledge the Queensland Community Fishing Grant in project publications, signage and online marketing materials.

8 Annual report

Fisheries Queensland will prepare an annual report outlining how Queensland Community Fishing Grant funding was spent.