



**Drought
Ready
Tasmania**

Drought Ready Tasmania – *Quick Wins Grants Program* 2026

Guidelines



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
Drought
Fund



Tasmanian
Government

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The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Tasmanian Government

At a glance: Drought Ready Tas 2026 Quick Wins grants program

The 2026 Drought Ready Tas Quick Wins grants program helps eligible organisations deliver projects that align with Tasmania's regional drought and climate resilience plans, up to the farm gate.

Funding available

- \$300,000 (GST Exclusive) is available across Tasmania: \$100,000 for each region.
- Projects can be between \$10,000 to \$30,000.
- Projects that span more than one region are eligible, and can be between \$10,000-90,000.

Who can apply

Applicants must be based in Tasmania and be one of the following:

- a. Registered charity, registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- b. an incorporated and not-for-profit organisation, or operates as a not-for-profit organisation
- c. local government authorities
- d. Tasmanian-based Aboriginal organisations, as registered on the [Register of Aboriginal Community Associations](#) or [Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations \(ORIC\)](#).

Assessment

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Impact and value for money (50%)** — how much will the project improve drought and climate resilience in the region (e.g. reduction in drought risk, increased adaptive capacity), relative to the funding requested
- **Addressing needs (25%)** — how well the project responds to an identified drought and climate resilience gap (see the target projects and cross-regional priorities in these guidelines)
- **Geographical area (25%)** – how much the project benefits a geographical area with an identified drought and climate resilience need.

Key dates

- **Applications open:** Tuesday 1 September 2026
- **Applications close:** 2pm, Tuesday 13 October 2026 (six weeks)
- **Projects must be completed by:** Friday, 31 March 2028.

Program overview

Part of the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, the [Regional Drought Resilience Planning \(RDRP\) Program](#) (known in Tasmania as Drought Ready Tas) aims to help communities across Australia be better prepared for and resilient to the impacts of future drought and climate variability events, through the development and implementation of regional drought and climate resilience plans. Being better prepared means droughts and other climatic events will have less impact, ensuring we can continue to thrive even through hard times.

In Tasmania, we have three regional drought and climate resilience plans:

- [Southern Tasmania](#)
- [Northern Tasmania](#)
- [North-West Tasmania](#)

Funding is available through the Drought Ready Tasmania program to support eligible organisations progress actions that support regional drought and climate resilience goals and action areas. Round two of the Quick Wins program forms part of phase two of the Drought Ready Tas program, which has \$4.4 million available for the delivery of the program until 30 June 2029.

Purpose of the Quick Wins grants program

The 2026 Drought Ready Tas Quick Wins grants program supports eligible organisations to progress local projects that help deliver actions within Tasmania's regional drought and climate resilience plans, up to the farm gate.

With the first round held in 2025, the 2026 Quick Wins round has \$300,000 available across the state, with \$100,000 allocated to each region. Projects can be between \$10,000 to \$30,000. While Quick Wins grants are designed to support local projects that benefit individual regions (North, North-West or South), an organisation can also submit a single project that spans two or all three regions, for an amount of up to \$90,000 across the state that will be split into participating regions allocation of funds.

Quick Wins is focused on initiating incremental change, with the hope that, over time, the projects funded through this program lead to longer-term transformational change.

Target projects

The Drought Ready Tas program focusses on building drought and climate preparedness up to the farm-gate. Based on recent program insights and identified community drought and climate resilience gaps in Tasmania, applicants are encouraged to focus on the below drought and climate resilience areas:

- projects that help regional communities create new and diverse economic opportunities
- environmental conservation, restoration and research projects and/or solutions to help communities better understand and adapt to drought and climate impacts
- projects that address regional vulnerabilities and needs around community infrastructure and services that will contribute to drought resilience
- projects that enhance water use efficiency and address vulnerabilities in water systems, including feasibility and planning projects.

If you are submitting a cross-regional project, applicants are encouraged to consider the program's identified cross-regional priorities provided in Attachment 1 of these guidelines.

Remember, these are just a few ideas. Use your regional drought and climate resilience plan to help spark your thinking about what your organisation could deliver.

Target projects will be considered as part of the assessment criteria.



Eligibility criteria

Please note that meeting all eligibility criteria does not automatically mean that a grant will be approved.

Prior to moving to assessment, applications will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the below eligibility criteria.

Alignment with the Regional Drought Resilience Plans

Eligible activities must align with action areas, goals and themes identified in the regional drought and climate resilience plans (Southern, Northern and North-West).

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be based in Tasmania and meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be one of the following entities:
 - e. Registered charity, registered with the ACNC
 - f. an incorporated and not-for-profit organisation, or operates as a not-for-profit organisation
 - g. local government authorities
 - h. Tasmanian-based Aboriginal organisations, as registered on the [Register of Aboriginal Community Associations](#) or [Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations \(ORIC\)](#).
2. Participate in networking and capacity development opportunities offered by the Drought Ready Tas team
3. Participate in Future Drought Fund (FDF) program evaluation activities.

NOTE: Eligible organisations who are successfully awarded a grant are required to hold and maintain appropriate public liability insurance. Applicants will be required to provide a copy of their public liability insurance as part of the application process.

Ineligible Applicants

The following entities are not eligible to apply for funding under the Quick Wins Program:

- state and Commonwealth government departments and agencies
- sole traders and for-profit organisations.

Ineligible projects

The below expenses will not be funded as part of the 2026 Quick Wins program:

- workshops and training related to on-farm land-based drought resilience including extension activities, due to other funding opportunities and programs occurring in this space
- contributing to purchasing of land
- existing wages (expansion of part-time staff is permitted)
- covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- activities that are already funded by other government sources. However, proposed grant activities can leverage or incorporate funding from other sources where it can be demonstrated that:
 - public funds are not being used for the same activity
 - the funding will add additional value to already funded activities
 - an objective of the activity is to build connections between activities across a region to target impact that reflects the “sum of parts”
- purchasing of alcohol
- overseas travel.

Future Drought Fund (Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2024-2028) Determination 2024 Mandatory Principles

Projects funded from the Drought Ready Tasmania program must align with [Future Drought Fund's \(Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2024-2028\) Determination 2024](#) mandatory principles, below.

Arrangements and grants are to:

- a) be consistent with the vision, aim and strategic objectives (to build economic, environmental and social resilience) of the Future Drought Fund; and
- b) ensure activities deliver a public good¹; and
- c) not provide in-drought assistance to directly address hardship; and
- d) actively encourage participation of a diverse range of people, businesses and landscapes involved in the agricultural sector and rural, regional and remote communities, including First Nations people; and

¹ A public good is a commodity or service that is non-excludable and non-rivalrous. This means that use by one person does not prevent access by others, and the good can be used simultaneously by more than one person.

- e) foster collaboration to improve integration, coordination, communication, planning and implementation of drought resilience activities, and avoid unnecessary duplication; and
- f) be designed to deliver efficient and effective outcomes for stakeholders; and
- g) ensure data and knowledge obtained from activities under the fund is shared and freely made available in the public domain; and
- h) ensure planned monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities are efficient, robust and in alignment with fund level monitoring, evaluation and learning expectations.

Applications will be reviewed against these principles as part of the eligibility review.

Other considerations

The following considerations are also relevant to the 2026 Quick Wins Grants Program:

- Funding is provided on a one-off basis. Ongoing costs for maintenance etc will not be funded.
- One local government area can only receive up to 50 per cent of the region's total funding amount.
- One organisation can only receive up to 50 per cent of the total statewide grant program amount.
- Organisations submitting health and wellbeing projects must be able to demonstrate compliance with appropriate quality and safeguarding principles.
- The Drought Ready Tas team reserves the right to request that successful applicants partner with, or merge project ideas with, similar project proposals and/ or organisations, where this may strengthen the proposed project and its outcomes.
- Due to the interconnected nature of drought and climate resilience initiatives, co-contributions are encouraged but are not currently part of the assessment criteria.

Assessment criteria

Below is a list of criteria that will be used to assess your application. Each criteria weighs differently (as shown in table below) and the assessment will be based on the level of detail and evidence provided by the applicant against the following criteria.

Assessment Criteria Weighting

Assessment Criteria	Weighting
Impact and value for money — extent to which the project will improve drought and climate resilience in the region (e.g. reduction in drought risk, increased adaptive capacity), relative to the funding requested. <i>Describe how your project reduces future drought and climate risk, and/or strengthen a community's ability to adapt to a changing climate? Refer to the ABARES model for drought risk, adaptive capacity and resilience in your regions drought and climate resilience plan.</i> <i>Ensure your budget provides enough detail to show that your project offers value for money for the amount of funding requested.</i>	50%
Addressing needs — extent to which the project responds to an identified drought and climate resilience gap, including target projects (page 4) and cross-regional priorities (page 14) listed in these guidelines. <i>Describe how your project aligns with the target projects and cross-regional priorities listed in these guidelines. If your project doesn't align with these projects, please clearly outline what gap it is responding to, and how this need has been identified.</i>	25%
Geographical area – extent to which the project benefits a geographical area with an identified drought and climate resilience need <i>Please ensure you clearly identify which local government area your project relates to.</i>	25%

During the assessment process the department may, at its discretion, require further information to support or clarify an application, this information must be provided within **three working days**, unless otherwise advised. Failure to provide further requested information within the timeframe may result in the application being unsuccessful.

Application process

How to apply

Applicants must complete the online application form, available through servicetas.fyi/CommunityGrants. As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit a budget.

If you are having difficulty accessing the application form, or have any questions regarding the application process, contact the community grants team on 1800 204 224 or email at grants@dpac.tas.gov.au.

On submission of your application, you will receive a confirmation email with your application form in PDF format from Smartygrants.

If you do not receive the confirmation email of your application, please contact community grants on 1800 204 224.

Key dates

Applications will be open from **Tuesday 1 September 2026**, for six weeks. Applications must be received by **2pm, Tuesday 13 October 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be notified on the outcome of their application by early December 2026.

Successful applicants will receive a Grant Agreement or Grant Deed outlining the funding terms and conditions, and co-branding and acknowledgement requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email advising they have been unsuccessful.

Key dates and shown in the Table below.

Table 1: Key dates for the 2026 Quick Wins Grants Program

Description	Date
Grants program opens	1 September 2026, 10am
Grants program closes	13 October 2026, 2pm
Applicants advised of outcome (estimated date)	1 December 2026
Funding disbursed	December 2026
Projects to be completed by	31 March 2028

Cross-regional applications

Some projects may support more than one region. While the Quick Wins grants are designed to support local projects that benefit individual regions (North, North-West or South), you can apply with one project that spans two or all three regions. If you do this, make sure your application clearly shows:

- The activities, benefits and outcomes for each region
- A separate budget for each region (you can apply for between \$10,000-\$30,000 per region — up to \$90,000 in total)

Your application will be split and assessed region by region by the relevant assessment panels. This means you may be successful in one region but not in another.

Where applicants chose to submit a cross-regional project, they are strongly encouraged to consider the identified cross-regional priorities for the program, available in Appendix A of this document. Alignment with the cross-regional priorities will be considered as part of the assessment criteria.

Partial funding

Successful applicants under this program may be offered partial funding. Please consider this when completing your application form and clearly identify how all funding you are applying for will be used.

Administration and contact details

The program will be administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet on behalf of the Crown in the Right of Tasmania. If you would like to discuss the grants program, including seeking further information or for assistance in making an application, please contact the Drought Ready project team on resilience@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Funding agreement

Provision of grant funding

Assessment and approval of a grant is based on the information supplied in the grant application form.

The provision of grant funding is subject to the successful applicant meeting:

- the requirements and objectives of the grant, being the intended purpose outlined in the grant application,
- any further terms and conditions outlined in a grant funding agreement/deed,
- meeting the terms outlined in these program guidelines.

Failure to adhere to the requirements of the grant, or the provision of false or misleading information, will require the grant funding to be returned to the department.

All successful applicants will be required to adhere to the conditions of the grant and, at a minimum, will be required to submit a final acquittal at the completion of the grant term that demonstrates the funding provided was used for the approved purpose.

Other implementation pathways

The Quick Wins grants program is one of the main pathways for regions to take forward actions in their regional drought and climate resilience plans. Regions should also explore and utilise other available funding and opportunities (such as other grants programs) to deliver projects, where possible.

The Future Drought Fund includes a range of initiatives that, from time to time, may offer funding that organisations could take advantage of across a range of relevant areas, including community support, natural resource management, and innovation. Specifically, the FDF Communities program has been designed to complement the RDRP program and may be utilised to support community related actions in RDR Plans, where appropriate.

Current funding arrangements

If the successful applicant already has an existing funding agreement in place with the department, and any reports or recovery of expended funds are outstanding, then funds for this program will not be provided until those activities are complete.

Publication of successful grant applications

The details of all successful applicants, including the amount of the grant they receive, will be made publicly available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website, as well as the Drought Ready Tas project website.

Media and branding

Funded projects will need to comply with the Future Drought Fund media and branding protocols. Guidance will be provided upon the signing of the grant deed.

Data and knowledge (Intellectual Property)

Data and Intellectual Property collected through the Quick Wins Grants Program will be managed in accordance with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and Future Drought Fund Funding Plan principles. Data will be securely stored within Tasmanian Government information management systems, with access restricted to authorised project team members and managed in line with departmental data governance and records management requirements.

For Aboriginal organisations and First Nations people, sharing of knowledge will be in accordance with Indigenous and Intellectual Property Principles. No data or knowledge will be shared that is deemed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal organisation and people to be culturally sensitive.

Where possible and appropriate all data and knowledge obtained from activities delivered with funding from the Future Drought Fund is to be shared and made freely available in the public domain.

Reporting and evaluation

Organisations that receive funding through the Quick Wins grants program are required to complete a final report using a template that will be provided by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Information gathered from all reports will be used to evaluate the grants program and satisfy the Department of Premier and Cabinet's reporting requirements, as well as reporting to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The final report must include an explanation of how the grant funds were used, including a financial acquittal. Organisations may be required to complete a Statement of Compliance declaring that the grant has been spent in accordance with the grant application and agreed purpose of funding.

Where possible, applicants will be asked to participate in Drought Ready Tas program Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) requirements as appropriate for the size of the approved project.

Taxation and financial implications

Organisations must indicate whether they are registered for GST in their grant application. Successful applicants will be advised if GST applies to the grant payment and asked to issue an invoice for grant payment(s).

If you do not have an Australian Business Number (ABN) you may be required to complete a 'Statement by a supplier'. Refer to the ATO website for more information: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Forms/Statement-by-a-supplier-not-quoting-an-ABN/>.

It is strongly recommended that applicants contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on 13 28 66 or www.ato.gov.au for any advice or clarification on GST.

Personal information

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. This information may be accessed by the individual to whom it related, on request to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Right to information

Information provided to the Department of Premier and Cabinet is subjected to the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009*. You can view the Act in full on the Tasmanian Legislation website at www.thelaw.tas.gov.au.

Appealing a decision

The Department may reconsider a decision if the applicant can demonstrate a proven conflict of interest, error in process or discrimination.

If applicants have reason to believe that the proper process was not followed in assessment of an application, a request for review may be submitted.

Grounds for appeal are:

- I. The persons making the decision had a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of the application.
- II. The preparation of the application was affected adversely by incorrect advice provided by a staff member of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- III. The persons making the recommendations discriminated against the applicant on irrelevant grounds, such as cultural, religious or linguistic background; race; gender; marital status; sexual orientation; or disability.

All requests must be in writing to the contact details shown in these guidelines or to the Manager, Community Grants by email to grants@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Your request must be received within 28 days from the date of the Department notifying you of the decision about your application.

Appendix A: Drought Ready Tas cross regional program priorities

The regional plans share several common action areas. Shared action areas in the plans that are expected to have the greatest impact and will guide phase two of the program are summarised below. Applicants are encouraged to consider these for cross-regional projects.

- **Supply chains and food networks:** Strengthen regional supply chains and food systems by identifying vulnerabilities and recommending solutions.
- **Freight and biosecurity:** Conduct regional or statewide assessments to identify freight and biosecurity vulnerabilities and recommend solutions.
- **Integrated landscape-wide management:** Expand landscape-wide drought and climate change management plans to consider long-term drought and climate variability impacts on biodiversity and natural values.
- **Ecological research and interventions:** Research significant ecological communities vulnerable to drought, to understand effects of different interventions on improving species and landscape resilience.
- **Conservation investment:** Invest in targeted conservation action for at-risk species and ecosystems.
- **Sustainable land management:** Expand education, technical support and incentives that help landholders adopt environmentally sustainable practices.
- **Aboriginal knowledge:** Recognise and share Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural knowledge and land practices, including on-country activities such as cultural burning.
- **Fire resilience:** Improve fire management resources, training and infrastructure.
- **Critical infrastructure:** Assess and strengthen regional energy, water and transport infrastructure to withstand climate risks and maintain essential services.
- **Communication systems:** Improve digital connectivity and reduce communication blackspots.
- **Market diversification:** Explore opportunities to diversify regional markets.
- **Mental health training:** Provide specialised training to help communities respond to mental health challenges linked to drought and climate variability.
- **Climate adaptation coordination:** Strengthen collaboration between government, industry and communities to deliver unified climate adaptation strategies.

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Department of Premier and Cabinet

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