Drought Ready Tasmania

Drought Ready Tas Delivery Partner 2027 – 2029

Guidelines

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Resilience and Recovery Tasmania (RRT)
Department of Premier and Cabinet

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Future Drought Fund

Tasmanian Government

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Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we acknowledge and pay our respects to Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the traditional owners of the land. We recognise Tasmanian Aboriginal people's continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways, Sky and Culture and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

Key dates

Applications must be received by **2pm Friday 15 January 2027**. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Description	Date
Program opens	2pm, Tuesday 17 November 2026
Stakeholder briefing	10am, Monday 23 November 2026
Program closes	2pm, Friday 15 January 2027
Notification of Program Outcomes (estimate)	February 2027
Grant Deed expected to be executed (indicative)	March 2027
Delivery partner role expected to commence	1 April 2027
Delivery partner role to be completed by	31 December 2029
When your final report and acquittal will be due	31 December 2029

Program background

About the Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program

Known in Tasmania as Drought Ready Tas, the Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) program (the program) was established in 2021 as a foundational program of the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF). The program supports agricultural regions across Australia to prepare for and respond to drought and climate variability through the development and implementation of Regional Drought Resilience (RDR) Plans.

In Tasmania, phase one (2022-2025) of the program saw the development of three RDR Plans for the Southern, Northern and North-West regions of Tasmania, through a collaborative community-led approach. The RDR Plans outline practical actions that communities and organisations can take to prepare for future droughts and climate related events. They are living documents, meaning they are regularly updated to reflect evolving community priorities and needs. Reflecting the wide-reaching impacts of droughts and climate related events, Tasmania's RDR Plans include actions across a range of areas including agriculture, regional economies, community and environment and landscapes. The RDR Plans can be found at droughtready.tas.gov.au

Phase two (2025-2029)

With a budget of $4.4 million (including $1.5 million from the Tasmanian Government and $2.9 million from the Australian Government), phase two of the program (2025-2029) builds on the momentum from phase one, with a focus on:

- implementing cross-regional priorities identified from the existing RDR Plans (see Appendix A)
- appointing a statewide partner organisation to deliver key components of the program and support coordination of community drought and climate resilience efforts, up to the farm gate, from 1 April 2027 to 31 December 2029.

DPAC is seeking to appoint this delivery partner through this competitive grants process.

The Drought Ready Tas team within Resilience and Recovery Tasmania (RRT, DPAC) will continue to have a key role in the strategic direction, oversight and monitoring and evaluation of the program.

Funding is limited to the Drought Ready Tas Phase Two delivery partner role and does not create any entitlement or expectation of further funding beyond the term of the Grant Deed. Any future funding or delivery arrangements beyond Phase Two will be subject to separate consideration and approval.

Program objectives

The Drought Ready Tas delivery partner will support achievement of the following national RDRP program outcomes:

- regional drought resilience planning and action is locally-led and owned by regional communities
- regional communities are developing a culture of deliberative, proactive and coordinated regional drought resilience planning and action
- RDR Plan actions are enhancing regional drought and climate resilience in line with local priorities.

These program-level outcomes support the Future Drought Fund's long-term outcomes of:

- an innovative and profitable agriculture sector
- a sustainable natural environment, and
- adaptable rural, regional and remote communities – all with increased resilience to the impacts of drought and climate variability.

Funding available

Up to $700,000 (GST exclusive) is available under this Grant Program.

RRT may decide not to award the grant if no application sufficiently demonstrates the requirements of the role.

While you may identify any cash or in-kind contributions that will support delivery of the proposed activities, co-contributions are not required and will not affect the assessment of an application.

Supporting information

The following supplementary background documents are available to prospective applicants upon request:

- Future Drought Fund's *Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program Framework (2025–2029)*;
- Approved Tasmanian Program Implementation Plan (PIP); and
- Governance Review Summary Report.

These documents provide additional background and context only. They are not required to prepare an application, and access to them is not expected to provide any material advantage in the assessment process.

To request access, please email RRT@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants

To be eligible, applicants must:

- have an established presence in Tasmania[1], with established statewide reach and capacity to reach into regions
- have strategic alignment with the Drought Ready Tas program, and drought and climate preparedness more broadly
- be either one of the following entities:
    a) an organisation registered as a charity 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.

It is encouraged that key staff delivering the program are living and working regionally within Tasmania.

Can organisations apply as a consortium?

Yes. You may apply as a consortium to collaboratively develop and deliver one project.

Where a consortium application is submitted, one eligible organisation must be identified as the lead applicant. The lead applicant will:

- clearly describe the project governance, role and contribution of each delivery partner in their application
- include a short letter of support from each delivery partner
- submit one application, and if successful, enter into the Grant Deed
- be responsible for the grant and meeting the requirements of the Grant Deed, including where activities or funding are delivered through partner organisations.

Support delivery partners may:

- contribute funding, resources, expertise, services or other support to the program
- participate in delivery without needing to meet the Grant Program's eligibility requirements.

[1] **Established presence in Tasmania** means having an office, employees or ongoing operations located in Tasmania at the time applications close.

Who cannot apply?

The following entities are not eligible to apply for the Drought Ready Tas delivery partner role:

- State and Commonwealth government departments and agencies
- Sole traders and for-profit organisations
- Local Government Authorities (councils)
- Australian agencies and bodies.

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

Any project funded from the Drought Ready Tas program must align with the *Future Drought Fund (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 good[2]; 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
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.

[2] 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.

What *can* the Grant be used for?

Funding may be used only for activities and costs that directly support the delivery of the roles and responsibilities outlined in Table 1 of these Guidelines, and as agreed in the Grant Deed developed with the successful applicant.

Examples of eligible costs may include:

- project staff and project management
- community engagement and communications
- partnership and collaboration activities
- specialist services
- venue, equipment or vehicle hire
- equipment and minor assets necessary to deliver the program.

What *can't* the grant be used for?

Funding under this Grant Program cannot be used for:

- activities primarily focused on on-farm drought resilience, land-management outcomes or agricultural extension services, as the program focuses on community drought and climate resilience initiatives up to the farm gate
- direct in-drought assistance intended to alleviate immediate hardship
- activities or costs already funded through another government funding source
- the purchase of land or buildings
- overseas travel.

What will the delivery partner do?

The Drought Ready Tas delivery partner will act as the key community interface for the Drought Ready Tas program. During the term of the Grant Deed, the delivery approach and allocation of responsibilities may be refined in response to emerging program and community needs and priorities, subject to agreement between RRT and the Recipient and, where required, formal variation of the Grant Deed.

Transition of responsibilities may be staged having regard to the Recipient's capacity and readiness and will be agreed collaboratively with the Recipient.

Table 1 sets out the key responsibilities of the delivery partner role.

Table 1: Drought Ready Tas delivery partner key responsibilities

Function	Description
Program delivery and direction	• Support the coordination of community drought and climate resilience efforts across Tasmania, up to the farm gate • Engage in regular program planning meetings with the broader Drought Ready Tas project team • Support progress of identified cross-regional priorities, including pursuing opportunities for further funding • Monitor for emerging cross-regional priorities and risks • Participate in the Drought Ready Tas statewide steering committee, coordinated by the Drought Ready Tas project team within RRT (DPAC)
Project development and capacity support	• Undertake capacity development activities with Drought Ready Tas grant recipients to bolster the delivery of funded projects • Explore and scope future possible grant program ideas with prospective applicants, including alignment with grant program guidelines
Stakeholder and community engagement	• Act as the main point of contact for stakeholders and communities engaging with the Drought Ready Tas program • Convene a statewide drought and climate resilience Community of Practice, focusing on building capacity across regions in taking action for drought and climate preparedness • Design and deliver fit for purpose stakeholder and community engagement activities that reflect contemporary engagement methodologies • Work with regional stakeholders including but not limited to councils, environment and NRM bodies, research and industry groups and government agencies to continue to identify emerging drought and climate preparedness needs, issues, opportunities and explore possible solutions through delivery

Function	Description
	• Continue to engage with priority councils (ie those with an identified lower resilience to drought) to explore and identify unique drought and climate vulnerabilities, opportunities and solutions, and connect them to potential grant opportunities • Represent the Drought Ready Tas program at industry and community events • Draft and deliver an industry engagement plan to raise interest and support in the Drought Ready Tas program and explore future possibilities for co-contributions
Communications and media	• Develop communications plan aligning with approved program messaging • Deliver community and stakeholder facing communications, including seasonal program updates, social media updates and website information, including FAQ's • Identify and pursue media opportunities and act as the spokesperson for the Drought Ready Tas program • Ensure the program's stakeholder database remains up-to-date • Lead the delivery of a statewide podcast to capture learning and success stories of the Drought Ready Tas program
Support RDR Plan review	• Coordinate engagement activities to inform RDR Plan review and participate in the review process. RDR Plan review will include a review of the existing 2023 resilience baseline assessment, and consideration of CSIRO peer review feedback *Note: Engagement activities to support RDR Plan review are to be covered in grant amount. RRT will lead and manage the procurement process. Costs of technical consultants to deliver Plans' refresh **are not** part of this grant amount.*
Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)	• Undertake 2-yearly monitoring and evaluation activities against existing RDR plans • Revise MEL frameworks provided in current RDR plans for continuous improvement • Contribute to broader progress reporting and end of program evaluation reporting lead by the Drought Ready Tas project team • Prepare case studies of example projects to share learnings across regions

Indicative deliverables for the delivery partner role are set out in Table 2. You may propose alternative delivery approaches, sequencing or timing where they can demonstrate that the proposed approach will meet the responsibilities in Table 1 and achieve the intended program outcomes.

All responsibilities identified in Table 1 are required; however, you may propose how those responsibilities are most effectively delivered.

Final deliverables, milestones and timeframes will be agreed with the successful applicant and reflected in the Grant Deed. Delivery is expected to commence from 1 April 2027.

Table 2: Drought Ready Tas phase two delivery partner outputs

Function	Outputs	Indicative timing
Program delivery and direction	• Participation in the Drought Ready Tas statewide steering committee (quarterly to six-monthly meetings)	April 2027 – June 2029
Project development and capacity support	• Support capacity development of Drought Ready Tas grant recipients to bolster the delivery of funded projects (10 recipients per year) • Explore and scope future possible grant program ideas with prospective applicants, (10 prospective recipients per year)	April 2027- June 2029 April 2027- June 2029
Stakeholder and community engagement	• Biennial statewide stakeholder workshops focussed on building knowledge of drought resilience regional priorities and needs, providing program updates, sharing successful grants projects and exploring future delivery plans (x2 statewide workshops in total) • Regional stakeholder workshops (Northern, North-West and Southern Tas) to build knowledge of drought resilience regional priorities and needs, provide program updates and share successful grants projects (3x workshops in total) • Establish and convene a statewide online drought and climate resilience Community of Practice, focusing on building capacity across regions in drought and climate preparedness (six-monthly) • Project representation at Drought Ready Tas key events including Agfest *Note: event costs and materials covered by Drought Ready Tas program (RRT)*	July 2027 -June 2029 July 2028 July 2027 – June 2029 May 2027; May 2028; May 2029

Function	Outputs	Indicative timing
	• Develop and deliver an industry engagement plan to raise interest and support in the Drought Ready Tas program and to explore future possibilities for co-contributions	Jan 2028- June 2029
Communications and media	• Seasonal program updates (x8), distributed to the program's stakeholder database • Media opportunities (x8) • Development of statewide podcast showcasing Drought Ready Tas success stories (x10 episodes)	July 2027- June 2029 July 2027- June 2029 July 2027- June 2029
RDR Plan review	• Lead engagement activities for RDR plan review (engagement activities to be agreed with the successful Recipient)	July – Dec 2028
Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)	• Consideration of integrating RDR Plan MEL into a consolidated statewide format • Monitoring and evaluation progress report • Prepare case studies of example projects to share learnings across regions (x5 per year) • Final acquittal/ evaluation report	December 2027 March 2028 December 2028 December 2029

How do I apply?

Applicant briefing

An online briefing to interested applicants will be held at **10am Monday 23 November 2026**. To attend, please email rrt@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Applying online

To apply, go here.

I'm still not sure I can apply – what should I do?

You can contact us before the grant closes at RRT@dpac.tas.gov.au

I'm new to applying to grants – where can I get help?

We strongly encourage you use SmartyGrants Help Guide for Applicants and Applicant FAQ's to manage their application.

Multiple applications

An organisation may participate in more than one application. It may be the lead applicant in more than one application, a supporting delivery partner in more than one application, or a lead applicant in some applications and a supporting delivery partner in others.

Each application will be assessed on its own merits. Only one application will be funded under this round.

Use of artificial intelligence

You may use generative artificial intelligence or other tools to assist in preparing an application. You remain responsible for the accuracy, completeness, originality and appropriateness of all material submitted.

You should identify material AI assistance or other external sources used in preparing the application, including the type of assistance provided. RRT may ask you to explain or validate information in the application.

Conflicts of interest

You must disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest that could affect, or be seen to affect, the application, proposed activity or use of funding. RRT may seek further information and manage a disclosed conflict as appropriate.

GST and tax

Amounts in the guidelines are GST exclusive unless stated otherwise.

You should obtain your own taxation, legal or financial advice if needed.

GST treatment and invoicing requirements will be confirmed in the funding agreement.

Assessment

Eligible applications will be comparatively assessed against the criteria below.

Applications must include a delivery plan setting out your proposed approach to performing the statewide delivery partner role. The delivery plan should address the responsibilities and indicative deliverables in Tables 1 and 2 and include the proposed delivery model, project team, governance and project management arrangements, implementation timeframe, stakeholder engagement approach, budget, key risks and monitoring and evaluation approach.

Table 3: Assessment criteria

Assessment criterion	What your application should demonstrate	Weighting
1. Delivery approach, organisational capability and readiness	Referencing your delivery plan, demonstrate how your organisation will successfully deliver the statewide delivery partner role, including all responsibilities identified in Table 1 and the intended program outcomes. Your response should demonstrate: • strategic alignment with the objectives and outcomes of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program; • demonstrated experience delivering programs or projects of comparable scale, complexity and duration, including evidence of delivery within agreed timeframes and budgets; • how your proposed approach will address the responsibilities in Table 1 and achieve the intended program outcomes; • the proposed project team, including roles, responsibilities, relevant experience, availability and continuity; • appropriate governance, decision-making, project management and financial management arrangements; • a realistic approach to mobilisation and becoming fully operational, including any proposed staged transition of responsibilities; • key delivery risks and how they will be identified, monitored and managed;	45%

Assessment criterion	What your application should demonstrate	Weighting
	• your approach to monitoring, evaluation, learning and continuous improvement; and • how your organisation will respond to emerging priorities and changing program needs while continuing to meet agreed responsibilities, deliverables and timeframes.	
2. Technical knowledge and expertise	Referencing your delivery plan, demonstrate that your organisation has, or can reliably access, the technical knowledge and expertise required to perform the statewide delivery partner role. Your response should demonstrate: • knowledge and understanding of drought and climate resilience in the Tasmanian context; • capability across the social, economic and environmental dimensions of drought resilience, including the cross-regional priorities identified in Appendix A; • demonstrated experience applying relevant technical expertise to complex regional or statewide programs or initiatives; • how specialist expertise not held internally will be accessed, managed and integrated into delivery; and • how the collective skills and experience of the proposed project team will support successful delivery of the program.	25%
3. Stakeholder engagement and collaboration	Referencing your delivery plan, demonstrate your organisation's capability and track record in designing and delivering effective stakeholder engagement and collaboration at regional and statewide levels. Your response should demonstrate: • established relationships and networks relevant to drought and climate resilience across Tasmania; • demonstrated experience working collaboratively with government, industry, community, research and regional organisations; • experience engaging diverse stakeholder groups, including communities and groups particularly	20%

Assessment criterion	What your application should demonstrate	Weighting
	vulnerable to drought and climate-related impacts; • an appropriate approach to engaging and working with Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations; • capability to convene stakeholders, facilitate collaboration and build regional capacity; and • how you will work with existing organisations, programs and initiatives to coordinate activity and avoid unnecessary duplication.	
4. Value for money	Drawing on your Delivery Plan and proposed budget, demonstrate that the proposed allocation of grant funding is reasonable, efficient and proportionate to the activities, resources and outcomes proposed.	10%

Assessment and decisions

RRT assesses eligible applications against the published assessment criteria and may consider any additional matters identified in the guidelines. RRT may seek clarification or further information, but is not required to do so.

RRT may recommend full or partial funding, impose conditions, or decide not to fund any application. A funding decision is final except for the review process in these terms.

What happens if I am successful?

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the assessment process.

If funding is offered, you will be required to enter into a Grant Deed.

Transition to the successful Recipient is expected to commence from 1 April 2027, or earlier if agreed between RRT and the Recipient.

Grant Deed

The successful applicant must accept and sign the provided Grant Deed before any payment is made. The Grant Deed will set out the approved purpose, amount, payment conditions, project dates, reporting requirements and any special conditions.

Use of funds

Grant funds may only be used for the approved purpose and within the approved project period. Unless RRT agrees in writing, funds must not be used for:

- activities delivered outside Tasmania
- alcohol, vouchers or gift cards
- personal expenses, fines, legal costs, fundraising or political activity
- business-as-usual costs or expenditure already funded by another Tasmanian Government grant
- activities undertaken before funding approval
- any purpose that does not provide the intended community benefit.

Recipients must have the capability and capacity to deliver the approved purpose and manage any ongoing costs.

Changes to the project

Recipients must obtain RRT written approval before making a material change to the approved purpose, budget, project timeframe, delivery partner or use of grant funds. RRT may approve, decline or place conditions on a requested change.

Records, reporting and acquittal

Recipients must keep complete records, invoices, receipts and other evidence of grant expenditure and delivery. They must provide progress reports, a final report, an acquittal and any other information required under the funding agreement.

Payment, recovery and termination

RRT may delay, withhold, reduce, suspend or recover funding where a Recipient does not comply with the funding agreement, provides false or misleading information, does not deliver the approved purpose, or has unspent funds that are not approved for another use.

Information, privacy and publication

Use of application information

RRT and DPAC may use information submitted in an application to assess, administer, monitor, evaluate and report on the Grant Program. Information may be shared with assessment panel members, relevant government agencies or service providers where necessary for those purposes.

Privacy, records and information requests

Information is managed in accordance with applicable Tasmanian law, including the Personal Information Protection Act 2004, Right to Information Act 2009 and Archives Act 1983. Information may be subject to disclosure under right to information legislation.

Publication and intellectual property

RRT or DPAC may publish the Recipient name, project title, location, funding amount and a description of the funded activity. Recipients must ensure that material they provide does not infringe another person's intellectual property or privacy rights.

Feedback and review

You may request feedback on an unsuccessful application from the contact identified in the guidelines.

An applicant may request a review only where it reasonably believes that:

- a person involved in the assessment or decision had a direct or indirect financial interest in the application outcome
- the applicant relied on incorrect advice provided by DPAC or RRT that materially affected the application
- the application was affected by discrimination on an irrelevant ground, such as cultural, religious or linguistic background, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

A review request must be in writing, explain the grounds for review, and be sent to the Manager, Community Grants at grants@dpac.tas.gov.au within 28 days after notification of the decision. A review does not guarantee a change to the outcome.

Contact

For information or support with this Grant Program, contact RRT@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Appendix A: Drought Ready Tas cross-regional program priorities

Tasmania's RDR Plans share several common action areas – as below. These shared action areas are expected to have the greatest impact on drought and climate preparedness and will guide phase two of the program.

- **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.