From: Sent: To: Subject:	Wednesday, 11 March 2020 10:50 AM ^{47F - personal privacy} Emma FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]		
Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:	Follow up Flagged		
	OFFICIAL		
Hi Emma			
Did we hear back from the Hub o	Did we hear back from the Hub on this one yet – Id like to get some advice back to the MO		
k			
	OFFICIAL		
From: s47F - personal privacy @awe.gov.au> Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 12:03 PM To: MTF- personal privacy @infrastructure.gov.au> Cc: Karly <karly.< td=""> BitTe- personal privacy @infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]</karly.<>			
Hello Karen,			
We've received the below email via Minister Ley's office – the Murray River Council has queried two projects that have been rejected under their DCP project application			
Appreciate any advice you or your te	eam have on this		
Kind regards,			
647F - personal più			
<mark>s47F - personal privacy</mark> – Adviser Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7630 ^{s47F - personal privacy}			
From: ^{847F - personal privacy} (S. Ley, MP) [<u>1</u> Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 To: s47F - personal privacy Subject: FW: Drought Communit			

s47F - perso

As discussed a wordy appeal to Min Ley as follows...

In short Murray River Council feels the strict application of the program criteria has either been misapplied or is removing common sense from the reviewed decision. The two road blocks detailed below^{*},** and precis as follows

*Micro abattoir proposal is not a private or commercial entity; will be owned by council; is trying to fill a
market gap where there is no competing local business

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Any assistance appreciated. Regards

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier today to discuss Council's funding submission for the Drought Communities Program, particularly with regards to two pertinent project activities that the Program Management and Delivery Team deem ineligible.

Council initially considered 9 projects for the Drought Communities Program for works to be completed by 31 December 2020 and from these, shortlisted and recommended 5 projects for funding to deliver economic stimulus and other benefits to drought-affected regions within Murray River Council.

1. Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed by assessors.

They found that the proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility will directly support 19 x local food producers and create 15 new jobs in Barham. Food producers are currently facing extremely tough financial conditions due to drought and are now compelled to transport their livestock in excess of 3.5hrs for processing at a facility in Benalla and beyond.

Council believes strongly that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria. The facility will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- <u>other drought relief programs</u>.

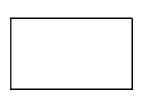
Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring this to Sussan's attention and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest,



Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 11:59 AM
To: s47F - personal privacy@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

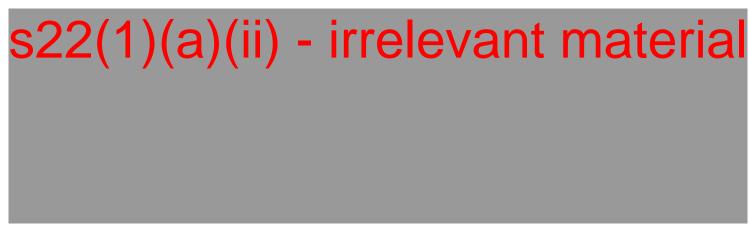


As discussed by phone this morning, below is the outcome of Council's request to reconsider two project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible for funding under the Drought Communities Program – Extension Grant Guidelines.

Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed.

The proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".



If Council would seek to have this proposal reassessed as part of grant DCP000535 please resubmit plans and budgets which clearly identify the specific eligible works to being proposed.

This application has been returned to draft in the portal and can be updated and resubmitted by Council when it has reconsidered its proposed project activities.

I again encourage Council to refer to the grant guidelines to self-assess the eligibility of proposed activities and expenditure before seeking consideration of new proposed activities.

Regards

s47F - personal priva

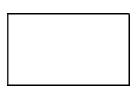
Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: s47F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au



Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources





personal privacy | Manager Economic Development & Tourism

Murray River Council | Moama Office | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 | s47F - personal privacy 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

From:	s47F - personal privacy Emma	
Sent:	Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:39 PM	
To:	s47F - personal privals	
Cc:	s47F - personal pr Malcolm; s47F - personal privacy Matthew	
Subject:	Murray River Council - DCP000535 application review request [SEC=OFFICIAL]	
Attachments:	RE: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which	
	have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [DLM=For-Official-	
	Use-Only]; Drought Communities Programme Grant opportunity guidelines DOCX.docx	

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen

The Hub responded this morning to our request for further information regarding Murray River Council's two ineligible project proposals (FYI: The Hub's response email is attached).

The Hub does not consider that the Council has provided any new information to support either of the project proposals, and that they consider both proposals to remain ineligible following this re-assessment.

Please find below a draft response for you to send to send to server a personal privacy NB: The Hub's response is quite detailed, so I have tried to summarise it a little below, but please let me know if you have any concerns.

s47F - personal p

Thank you for your email. We referred this request for confirmation to the Industry Grants Hub to get their feedback on the additional information provided by Murray River Council, and to confirm whether the additional information would change their initial assessment of the Barham Micro Abattoir and the ^{\$22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material} project proposals.

Based on the information below, the additional information provided the Murray River Council has not changed the Industry Grants Hub's assessment of these project proposal, with both unfortunately still assessed to be ineligible against the Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension Guidelines.

The first two of Council's seven proposed projects under Phase 5 were described by Murray River Council in their application as:

1. Barham Micro Abattoir Project - involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Barham Micro Abattoir:

The proposed project grant value is \$115,000 and Council outlined in their application that they intend to lease the facility, when completed, to a cooperative of local meat producers. An attachment to the grant application stated that "If successful, the project will receive up to \$1.787 million in total [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project".

- Following assessment of the application by the Grants Hub, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the
 proposed activity was assessed as ineligible in accordance with Section 5.4 of the Guidelines (Ineligible Expenditure),
 whereby "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures,
 including licenced areas of registered clubs".
- On 11 February 2020, Council requested that the assessment outcome be reconsidered. Council did not provide any
 additional documentation to warrant the assessment team changing its assessment.
- On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found that the proposed project was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.
- Based on the additional information provided by Council to Minister Ley's Office on 27 February 2020, Council advise that the completed abattoir project will:
 - will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting); and
 - will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.
- However, the Grants Hub have reviewed the Council's latest request for clarification and advise that none of the
 additional information provided by Council is new. Furthermore, the Grants Hub are unchanged in their assessment
 that the project involves the development of a commercial venture. It is also noted that there is risk associated with
 the proposed project with the current unsettled status of the land ownership.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Regards, Emma

OFFICIAL

 From:
 March 2020 3:26 PM

 Sent:
 Wednesday, 4 March 2020 3:26 PM

 To:
 March 2020 3:26 PM

 Subject:
 Formal < Emma.</td>

 Subject:
 FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Emma

Can you please look into this one, and prepare a response for me to send back to the MO.

Thanks, Karen

OFFICIAL

 From: s47F - personal privacy
 @awe.gov.au>

 Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 12:03 PM

 To: s47F - personal privacy
 @infrastructure.gov.au>

 Cc: s47F - personal privacy
 @infrastructure.gov.au>

 Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

 Hello Karen,

 We've received the below email via Minister Ley's office – the Murray River Council has queried two projects that have been

Appreciate any advice you or your team have on this

rejected under their DCP project application

Kind regards,

s47F - personal privacy – Adviser Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7630 s47F - personal privacy

From: ^{s47F - personal privacy} (S. Ley, MP) [mailto^{s47F - personal privacy}@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 11:42 AM To: s47F - personal privacy

@awe.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s47F - personal priv

As discussed a wordy appeal to Min Ley as follows...

In short Murray River Council feels the strict application of the program criteria has either been misapplied or is removing common sense from the reviewed decision. The two road blocks detailed below^{*},** and precis as follows

• *Micro abattoir proposal is not a private or commercial entity; will be owned by council; is trying to fill a market gap where there is no competing local business

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Any assistance appreciated. Regards

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier today to discuss Council's funding submission for the Drought Communities Program, particularly with regards to two pertinent project activities that the Program Management and Delivery Team deem ineligible.

Council initially considered 9 projects for the Drought Communities Program for works to be completed by 31 December 2020 and from these, shortlisted and recommended 5 projects for funding to deliver economic stimulus and other benefits to drought-affected regions within Murray River Council.

1. Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed by assessors.

They found that the proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility will directly support 19 x local food producers and create 15 new jobs in Barham. Food producers are currently facing extremely tough financial conditions due to drought and are now compelled to transport their livestock in excess of 3.5hrs for processing at a facility in Benalla and beyond.

Council believes strongly that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria. The facility will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or **commercial ventures**, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

The new micro livestock processing facility will be a Murray River Council owned asset. This asset will not create competition with any other local business or businesses within the surrounding region. This asset will provide economic benefits to the wider community.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

- The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals: The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.
 - The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

- The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.
- The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities. The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

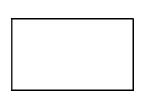
The Barham Micro Abattoir is a priority project for Murray River Council.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring this to Sussan's attention and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest,



onal privacy | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

 From: Drought Communities Programme < DCP@industry.gov.au</td>

 Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 11:59 AM

 To: s47F - personal privacy@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

 Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s47F - p

As discussed by phone this morning, below is the outcome of Council's request to reconsider two project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible for funding under the Drought Communities Program – Extension Grant Guidelines.

Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed.

The proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".



If Council would seek to have this proposal reassessed as part of grant DCP000535 please resubmit plans and budgets which clearly identify the specific eligible works to being proposed.

This application has been returned to draft in the portal and can be updated and resubmitted by Council when it has reconsidered its proposed project activities.

I again encourage Council to refer to the grant guidelines to self-assess the eligibility of proposed activities and expenditure before seeking consideration of new proposed activities.

Regards

s47F - personal privac

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: s47F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au



Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources





Murray River Council | Moama Office | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 | m ^{s47F-personal privacy} 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

| Manager Economic Development & Tourism

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	s47F - personal privacy @industry.gov.au> Wednesday, 11 March 2020 9:12 AM #7F - personal privacy Emma #7F - personal privacy Karen; #7F - personal privacy RE: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Hi Emma

Murray River Council lodged its **phase 6** application for \$1 million (DCP000535) under the DCP in February 2020. That application has not yet been submitted to the delegate for approval - Council has been asked to amend it so that all proposed activities are eligible.

Note that Council lodged its **phase 5** application (DCP000534), also for \$1 million, during January 2020. DCP000534 was approved by the delegate on 18 February 2020.

For DCP000535, the first two of Council's seven proposed projects were described as follows:

1. Barham Micro Abattoir Project involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Barham Micro Abattoir

The proposed activity grant value is \$115,000, which is sought to contribute to the development of a micro abattoir. Once developed, Council would lease the facility to a cooperative of local meat producers.

An attachment to the grant application states that "*If successful the project will receive up to \$1.787 million* [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], *however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project.*"

Following assessment of the application, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the proposed activity was ineligible under section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines - "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

On 11 February 2020, Council requested that the assessment outcome be reconsidered. Council did not provide any additional documentation to warrant the assessment team changing its assessment.

On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found that it was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.

Council Advice

In its recent email, Council argues that the abattoir will:

- will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting)
- will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business

Comment

None of the additional information provided by Council is new. The project involves the development of a commercial venture. It is also noted that there is risk associated with the proposed project with the current unsettled status of the land ownership.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

- - - - - 2 Page 16 of 120

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: Internet: www.business.gov.au



Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources



For Official Use Only

business.gov.au

From: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} Emma [mailto:Emma. @infrastructure.gov.au] Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 3:43 PM To: s47F - personal privacy @industry.gov.au> @infrastructure.gov.au>; Cc: Karen <Karen Matthew <Matthew. @infrastructure.gov.au>; Malcolm <Malcolm. @infrastructure.gov.au>; <\$47 vacv@industry.gov.au>

Subject: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [SEC=OFFICIAL] Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi

As discussed, we have received a request that we would be very grateful for your assistance with. We have been asked to provide a response to our Minister's Office on the reasons the two DCP projects below have been 'rejected'. As discussed, this request for information appears to have been generated following an email from AusIndustry to Mid River Council following up on ineligible project components (see below) and we would be very grateful for any information on the assessment these projects etc and any subsequent contact with the Council.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards, Emma

Emma ^{*} Assistant Director, Drought Taskforce Drought Support Branch, Regional Development and Local Government Division Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Phone: s47F - personal privacy Address: GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601 Email: emma.^{\$47F - personal}@infrastructure.gov.au

^{cy} (S. Ley, MP) [mailto:^{\$47F - personal privacy}@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 11:42 AM To: s47F - personal privacy

@awe.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s47F - personal pri

From:

As discussed a wordy appeal to Min Ley as follows...

In short Murray River Council feels the strict application of the program criteria has either been misapplied or is removing common sense from the reviewed decision. The two road blocks detailed below^{*},** and precis as follows

*Micro abattoir proposal is not a private or commercial entity; will be owned by council; is trying to fill a market gap where there is no competing local business

irrelevant material

Any assistance appreciated. Regards

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier today to discuss Council's funding submission for the Drought Communities Program, particularly with regards to two pertinent project activities that the Program Management and Delivery Team deem ineligible.

Council initially considered 9 projects for the Drought Communities Program for works to be completed by 31 December 2020 and from these, shortlisted and recommended 5 projects for funding to deliver economic stimulus and other benefits to drought-affected regions within Murray River Council.

1. Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed by assessors.

They found that the proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility will directly support 19 x local food producers and create 15 new jobs in Barham. Food producers are currently facing extremely tough financial conditions due to drought and are now compelled to transport their livestock in excess of 3.5hrs for processing at a facility in Benalla and beyond.

Council believes strongly that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria. The facility will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought

- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or **commercial ventures**, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

The new micro livestock processing facility will be a Murray River Council owned asset. This asset will not create competition with any other local business or businesses within the surrounding region. This asset will provide economic benefits to the wider community.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

 The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals: The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.

The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

- The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.
- The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities. The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

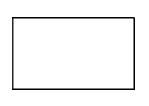
The Barham Micro Abattoir is a priority project for Murray River Council.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring this to Sussan's attention and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest,



- personal privacy | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 11:59 AM

To: s47F - personal privacy @murrayriver.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi^{s476}

As discussed by phone this morning, below is the outcome of Council's request to reconsider two project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible for funding under the Drought Communities Program – Extension Grant Guidelines.

Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed.

The proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

If Council would seek to have this proposal reassessed as part of grant DCP000535 please resubmit plans and budgets which clearly identify the specific eligible works to being proposed.

This application has been returned to draft in the portal and can be updated and resubmitted by Council when it has reconsidered its proposed project activities.

I again encourage Council to refer to the grant guidelines to self-assess the eligibility of proposed activities and expenditure before seeking consideration of new proposed activities.

Regards

s47F - personal privac

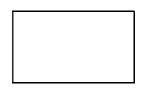
Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: s47F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au



Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources





s47F - personal privacy | Manager Economic Development & Tourism

Murray River Council | Moama Office | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 | m ^{647F - personal privacy} 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

OFFICIAL

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.



Australian Government Department of Industry,

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and **Regional Development**





Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Drought Communities Programme - Extension

Opening date:	September 2018	
Closing date:	 30 June 2019 for the 81 Eligible Councils announced in 2018 1 December 2019 for the 15 Eligible Councils announced in March 2019 1 June 2020 for the 14 Eligible Councils announced during the 2019 election campaign 1 June 2020 for the 12 Eligible Councils announced in September 2019 1 December 2020 for the 6 new Eligible Councils and 122 Existing Councils approved for further funding announced in 	
Commonwealth policy entity:	November 2019 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional	
commonwealth policy entry.	Development	
Administering entity	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	
Enquiries:	uiries: If you have any questions, contact us at <u>business.gov.au</u> .	
Date guidelines released:	September 2018 and updated October 2018, March 2019, July 2019, October 2019, November 2019 and December 2019	
Type of grant opportunity:	Closed non-competitive	

Contents

1.	Droug	ht Communities Programme processes	4
2.	About	the grant program	5
3.	Grant a	amount and grant period	6
	3.1.	Grants available	6
	3.2.	Project duration	6
4.	Eligibil	lity criteria	7
	4.1.	Who is eligible?	7
	4.2.	Eligible Councils	7
	4.3.	Additional eligibility requirements	7
5.	Eligible	e grant activities	7
	5.1.	Eligible projects	7
	5.2.	Eligible activities	7
	5.3.	Eligible expenditure	.8
	5.4.	Ineligible expenditure	8
6.	Project	t requirements	.9
	6.1.	Adverse Event Plans	9
7.	How to	apply	.9
	7.1.	Attachments to the application	10
	7.2.	Timing of grant opportunity	10
8.	The se	lection process	11
	~ .		
	8.1.	Final decision	11
9.	••••	Final decision	
-	Notific		11
-	Notific	ation of application outcomes	11 12
-	Notific If your	ation of application outcomes application is successful	11 12 12
-	Notific If your 10.1.	ation of application outcomes application is successful Grant agreement	11 12 12 12
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12 12
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4.	ation of application outcomes	 11 12 12 12 13 13
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12 13 13 13
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6.	ation of application outcomes	 11 12 12 12 13 13 14
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7.	ation of application outcomes	 11 12 12 12 13 13 14 14
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7. 10.8.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12 13 13 13 14 14
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7. 10.8. 10.9.	ation of application outcomes	 11 12 12 12 13 13 14 14 14 14
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7. 10.8. 10.9. 10.10. 10.11.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12 13 13 13 14 14 14 14
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7. 10.8. 10.9. 10.10. 10.11. 10.12.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12 13 13 13 14 14 14 14
-	Notific If your 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7. 10.8. 10.9. 10.10. 10.11. 10.12. 10.13.	ation of application outcomes	11 12 12 12 13 13 13 14 14 14 14 15 15

11.	Conflic	ets of interest	15
	11.1.	Your conflict of interest responsibilities	15
	11.2.	Our conflict of interest responsibilities	16
12.	How w	e use your information	16
	12.1.	How we handle your confidential information	16
	12.2.	When we may disclose confidential information	16
	12.3.	How we use your personal information	17
	12.4.	Public announcement	17
	12.5.	Freedom of information	18
13.	Enquir	ies and feedback	18
14.	14. Glossary		
Appendix A. Funding Announcements and Eligible Councils			21

1. Drought Communities Programme processes

The Drought Communities Programme is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant programme, which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Outcome 3.

The Department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant programme according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines.

The grant opportunity opens Eligible Councils are invited to submit project proposals via an online application on business.gov.au. We will publish grant guidelines and applicant information on business.gov.au and GrantConnect. Invited Eligible Councils complete and submit a grant application Ł We assess all grant applications We assess the applications for completeness and against all the eligibility criteria. Ł We make grant recommendations We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application. Ł Grant decisions are made The Program Delegate decides which applications are successful taking into consideration the proper use of public resources. We notify you of the outcome We advise you of the outcome of your application. We enter into a grant agreement We will enter into a grant agreement with successful Eligible Councils. **Delivery of grant** You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments. **Evaluation of the Drought Communities Programme grant opportunity**

We evaluate the specific grant activity and Drought Communities Programme as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

2. About the grant program

The extension of the Drought Communities Programme (the program) will provide total funding of \$250 million over three years from 2018-19 to Eligible Councils to deliver immediate economic stimulus and other benefits to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia. The program will support local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects for communities who have been impacted by drought.

The objectives of the program are to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief projects.

Funding will target infrastructure and other projects that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

The intended outcomes of the program are to, within a three year timeframe:

- increase employment in regions by providing work for locals and/or farmers and farm labourers/staff/contractors whose employment opportunities have been affected by drought
- improve levels of economic activity in regions
- increase productivity in regions
- enable better retention of businesses, services and facilities.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department/we) is responsible for administering the grant opportunity on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development.

We will publish the <u>opening and closing dates</u> and any other relevant information on <u>business.gov.au</u>¹ and <u>GrantConnect</u>².

We administer the program according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)³.

This document sets out:

- the eligibility criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant opportunity.

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in Appendix A.

¹ <u>https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/drought-communities-programme</u>

² <u>http://www.grants.gov.au/</u>

³ https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$250 million over three years from 2018-19. Program funding is capped and once that ceiling is reached, no other approvals are possible without a further consideration of the program parameters by the Australian Government.

Eligible Councils can receive funding for projects up to a maximum of \$1 million per announcement of funding (see announcements in section 3.2 below).

The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs (grant percentage).

- The minimum grant amount per application is \$25,000
- Applications can include multiple unrelated activities up to the total funding amount available per Eligible Council.

Eligible Councils announced for funding up to and including September 2019 may submit more than one application. Eligible Councils announced for funding from November 2019 may only submit one application.

Co-funding from Eligible Councils is not mandatory, but you may access other funding for the project. Cash funding or in-kind support can be provided by any organisation including, but not limited to, the Eligible Council, state government, not-for-profit organisations and private sector companies.

Funding can also form one component of a larger package of Australian Government funding, noting that other funding needs to meet the eligibility criteria of the program from under which it is funded. For example, eligible fencing projects may be part funded under the <u>Pest Animal and</u> <u>Weed Management Program</u>⁴, and eligible road projects may be part funded under the <u>Roads to</u> <u>Recovery Program</u>⁵.

Funding under this grant opportunity cannot be considered to be part of, or all of, a Council's contribution to projects under the Bridges Renewal Programme, the National Stronger Regions Fund, the Building Better Regions Fund, the Regional Growth Fund or the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme.

If your project is dependent on funding from other sources, you must identify these sources and include their level of agreed support.

3.2. Project duration

Projects can commence from the date of the Eligible Council's relevant funding announcement. The list of funding announcement dates, the earliest date for project commencement and the date by which projects must be completed is at Appendix A.

Eligible Councils that can demonstrate they have experienced extenuating circumstances may request an extension of the project period until 31 March 2021.

The program ends on 30 June 2021.

⁴ http://www.agriculture.gov.au/

⁵ https://infrastructure.gov.au/

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible?

To be eligible you must

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and
- be an Eligible Council, listed on <u>business.gov.au</u> and <u>GrantConnect</u>; or
- be invited to apply by the Minister.

4.2. Eligible Councils

Eligible Councils that can receive funding under the program are those specified by the Minister responsible for Drought. Eligible councils are listed on <u>business.gov.au</u> and <u>GrantConnect.</u>

For the purposes of the program, we consider an incorporated organisation that provides councillike services and functions in Far West New South Wales and Far North South Australia, for example, the Regional Development Australia Far West or the Outback Communities Authority, to be Eligible Councils.

The Minister responsible for Drought, in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Agriculture can consider approving further Eligible Councils under the program, at their discretion.

The program does not create an entitlement for all drought-affected Councils to receive funding under the program.

4.3. Additional eligibility requirements

We can only accept applications:

- submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of an Eligible Council or other council officer authorised to sign a grant agreement
- that include a declaration that you will comply with specific regulatory requirements as outlined in section 10.3.

5. Eligible grant activities

5.1. Eligible projects

To be eligible your project must:

- be located in an Eligible Council area
- meet project requirements, see section 6
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- have at least \$25,000 per application in eligible expenditure
- be undertaken in the project period and completed by the date stipulated in section 3.1.

5.2. Eligible activities

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include:

- repairs, maintenance, upgrading or building new community facilities
- repairs, maintenance, upgrades, construction and fit-out of community spaces
- employing local contractors to undertake repairs and maintenance

- holding events
- undertaking other drought relief activities (including water carting for human consumption) that benefit the community
- development of an Adverse Event Plan.

5.3. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend grant funds on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

Eligible expenditure items may include the cost of:

- suppliers, consultants and contracted labour undertaking eligible project activities
- materials required to deliver eligible project activities
- purchasing, leasing or hiring equipment required to deliver eligible project activities
- holding events and
- other drought relief activities (including water carting for human consumption)

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible, unless stated otherwise. Refer to Appendix A for project start and end dates. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis. We will not be responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed.

5.4. Ineligible expenditure

Examples of ineligible expenditure include:

- payment of salaries for existing staff or contractors, although projects may be carried out by existing workforces
- computer software or hardware that is not an integral part of the funded capital project
- a council's core or business-as-usual operations, which council rates and other government funding usually funds
- purchases of land, buildings, vehicles or mobile capital equipment (e.g. trucks and earthmoving equipment)
- expenditure incurred prior to the project start date (refer to Appendix A)
- undertaking studies or investigations, or
- the development of private or commercial ventures, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where we decide that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or are contrary to the objective of the program.

You must ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.

6. Project requirements

Each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements.

The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals

- the extent to which farmers and/or farm labourers/staff/contractors are expected to be employed
- how the project is expected to lead to the employment of locals and over what period of time they are expected to be employed
- the employment expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term
- the indirect employment expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers, and services.

The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions

- local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects
- the project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.

The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities

- the benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased tourism, increased trade for local businesses, improved services resulting from enhanced facilities
- the number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

6.1. Adverse Event Plans

Eligible Councils, publicly announced from 1 July 2019, must submit an Adverse Event Plan with their final project report.

Eligible Councils without an Adverse Event Plan already in place can use part of their funding under the program to develop an Adverse Event Plan.

Eligible Councils must develop an Adverse Event Plan which meets the needs of their community, and give consideration to the following:

- natural resource management (i.e. managing water supply, ground cover, trees, erosion, biodiversity)
- economic diversification and community resilience (i.e. infrastructure planning, tourism investment, diversifying local industries, capacity building for local leadership)
- communication and coordination (i.e. how to let people know what's available now, and in the future; how do you communicate in hard times and for recovery).

7. How to apply

Before applying, you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample <u>application form</u> and the sample <u>grant agreement</u> published on <u>business.gov.au</u> and <u>GrantConnect</u>.

You will need to set up a user account to access our online portal. The portal allows you to apply for and manage grants in secure online environment.

To apply, you must:

- be listed as an Eligible Council or invited by the Minister to submit an application
- complete the online application form through the portal

- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

We may ask you to justify your project costs. You should have evidence for the costs that you include in your project budget that you can provide on request.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

If you need further guidance around the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online <u>contact us</u> at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7.1. Attachments to the application

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2. Timing of grant opportunity

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Earliest start date of project	Refer to Appendix A
End date of grant commitment for the 81 Eligible Councils announced in 2018	30 June 2019
End date of grant commitment for the 15 Eligible Councils announced in March 2019	31 December 2019
End of grant commitment for the 14 Eligible Councils announced during the 2019 election campaign.	30 June 2020
End date of grant commitment for the 13 Eligible Councils announced in September 2019	30 June 2020
End date of grant commitment for funding provided to 128 Eligible Councils announced in November 2019	31 December 2020

8. The selection process

We will assess your application for completeness and against all the eligibility criteria. To be recommended for funding, your project must meet all eligibility criteria as these projects provide the best value for money.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, we may contact you to correct or clarify the errors. You may be asked to submit an updated proposal.

You may withdraw your application at any time.

8.1. Final decision

The Program Delegate (an AusIndustry senior responsible officer with responsibility for the program), decides which grants to approve taking into account the application assessment and the availability of grant funds.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of applications for funding
- the amount of grant funding awarded
- the terms and conditions of funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

9. Notification of application outcomes

If you are successful, you will receive a written offer, including any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, we will notify you in writing and give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

10. If your application is successful

10.1. Grant agreement

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We will use the Commonwealth simple grant agreement for this program. A sample <u>grant agreement</u> is available on <u>business.gov.au</u> and <u>GrantConnect</u>.

We will manage the grant agreement through the portal. Accepting the grant agreement through the portal is the equivalent of signing a grant agreement. After you have accepted it, we will execute the agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth Government have entered into the grant agreement. We will notify you when this happens and a copy of the executed grant agreement will be available through the portal. The grant agreement will not become binding until it is executed.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur before a grant agreement is executed.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of funding.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

10.2. Simple grant agreement

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details. The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application. We will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the project as approved by the Program Delegate.

10.3. Project specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations.

Under State and Territory legislation, it is a requirement for people in roles that have direct, unsupervised contact with children to undertake a working with children/vulnerable people check.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have met relevant State or Territory legislation obligations related to working with children and/or vulnerable people, and that any person that has direct, unsupervised contact with children as part of a project under this program, has undertaken and passed a working with children/vulnerable people check, if required under relevant State or Territory legislation. You are also responsible for assessing the suitability of the people you engage as part of your project to ensure children are kept safe.

We do not provide advice on working with children/vulnerable people legislation, and you are responsible for seeking your own advice from the authority in your relevant State or Territory.

In addition, you will need to complete a risk assessment to identify the level of responsibility for children and the level of risk of harm or abuse, and put appropriate strategies in place to manage those risks. You will also need to establish a training and compliance regime to ensure staff are aware of, and comply with, the risk assessment requirements as well as relevant legislation.

To be eligible, you must declare in your application that you comply with these requirements. You will need to declare you can meet these requirements in your grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

10.4. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any in-kind contributions you will make
- any additional financial contribution provided by you or a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make an initial payment on execution of the grant agreement. We will make subsequent payments in advance, based on your forecast eligible expenditure as you achieve agreed milestones and adjusted for unspent amounts from previous payments. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

We set aside 10 per cent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when you submit a satisfactory final report demonstrating you have completed outstanding obligations for the project. We may need to adjust your progress payments to align with available program funds across financial years and/or to ensure we retain a minimum 10 per cent of grant funding for the final payment.

The Program Delegate may approve alternative arrangements on a discretionary basis.

10.5. How we monitor your project

You must submit reports through the portal in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. You will also be able to download them from <u>business.gov.au</u> and <u>GrantConnect</u>. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

10.6. Final report

When you complete the project, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- be submitted by the report due date
- be in the format provided in the grant agreement.

Eligible Councils, publicly announced from 1 July 2019, must submit an Adverse Event Plan with their final project report.

10.7. Ad-hoc report

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

10.8. Independent audit report

We may ask you to provide an independent audit report. An audit report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The audit report requires you to prepare a statement of grant income and expenditure. The report template is attached to the sample grant agreement.

10.9. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project, to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement. For large or complex projects, we may visit you after you finish your project. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

10.10. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement through the portal, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum project period referred to in section 3.2.
- changing project activities

Note the program does not allow for:

an increase of grant funds (above the maximum available funding amount identified in section 3.1).

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the grant agreement end date. We can provide you with a variation request template.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

10.11. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

10.12. Evaluation

We will evaluate the program to determine the extent to which the funded activity is contributing to the program objectives and outcomes. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes. We may contact you up to one year after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

10.13. Tax obligations

In accordance with the terms of Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2, payments made under the program, which are payments made by a government related entity to another government related entity, do not attract GST. Consequently, funding sought by Eligible Councils in their proposal(s) must exclude the GST component on goods and services and the payments made to Eligible Councils will not include GST.

10.14. Grant acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program we require you, at a minimum, to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.'

If you erect signage in relation to the project, the signage must contain an acknowledgement of the grant. These details will be outlined in the grant agreement.

10.15. Events

We will require you to notify us of events relating to your project and provide opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend. These requirements will be outlined in your grant agreement.

11. Conflicts of interest

11.1. Your conflict of interest responsibilities

A conflict of interest will occur if your private interests conflict with your obligations under the grant. Conflicts of interest could affect the awarding or performance of your grant. A conflict of interest can be:

- real (or actual)
- apparent (or perceived)
- potential.

We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your grant, you must inform us in writing immediately.

11.2. Our conflict of interest responsibilities

We recognise that conflicts of interest may arise with our staff, technical experts, and others delivering the program between:

- their program duties, roles and responsibilities and
- their private interests.

We manage our conflicts of interest according to the APS Code of Conduct (section 13 (7) of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth)). We publish our <u>conflict of interest policy</u>⁶ on the department's website.

Program officials must declare any conflicts of interest. If we consider a conflict of interest is a cause for concern, that official will not take part in the assessment of relevant applications under the program.

12. How we use your information

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per 12.1, or
- personal information as per 12.3,

We may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

12.1. How we handle your confidential information

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

12.2. When we may disclose confidential information

We may disclose confidential information:

⁶

https://www.industry.gov.au/AboutUs/InformationPublicationScheme/Ourpolicies/Documents/Conflict-of-Interest-and-Inside-Trade-Expectations-Policy.pdf

- to our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

12.3. How we use your personal information

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our <u>Privacy Policy</u>⁷ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

12.4. Public announcement

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect and business.gov.au. We are required to do this by the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* and the <u>Australian</u> <u>Government Public Data Policy Statement</u>⁸, unless otherwise prohibited by law. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number

⁷ http://www.industry.gov.au/Pages/PrivacyPolicy.aspx

⁸ http://www.dpmc.gov.au/resource-centre/data/australian-government-public-data-policy-statement

- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

We publish this information to ensure open access to non-sensitive data within Australian Government agencies to enable greater innovation and productivity across all sectors of the Australian economy.

12.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

13. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by <u>web chat</u> or through our <u>online enquiry form</u> on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our <u>Customer Service Charter</u> is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

Head of Division AusIndustry - Support for Business Department of Industry, Innovation and Science GPO Box 2013 CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the <u>Commonwealth Ombudsman⁹</u> with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

⁹ http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
Adverse Event Plan	A plan developed in consultation with local stakeholders which aims to build local leadership and community capacity to adapt and cope with chronic stresses and acute shocks. The plan should look to improve preparation, management and recovery from those events. Planning for drought should consider water supply and quality, projects to buoy the local economy and maintain community cohesion and drought support coordination.
Application form	The details that applicants provide in the online portal to apply for funding under the grant opportunity.
AusIndustry	The division of the same name within the department.
Eligible Council	A council that is eligible to apply for funding under the program as published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.
Department	The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
Eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.2.
Eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
Eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.3.
Grant agreement	A legally binding contract between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding
Grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
Grantee	The recipient of grant funding under a grant agreement.
Guidelines	Guidelines that the Minister gives to the department to provide the framework for the administration of the program, as in force from time to time.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister responsible for Drought.
Personal information	 Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is: Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable: a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program Delegate	An AusIndustry senior responsible officer within the department with responsibility for the program.

Term	Definition
Program funding or Program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
Project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.

Appendix A. Funding Announcements and Eligible Councils

The table below sets out the date of Eligible Councils' funding announcement, list of Eligible Councils, the date from which projects can commence, and the date by which projects should be completed.

Date of funding announcement	Eligible Councils	Earliest start date of project	Date by which projects should be completed
Prior to 1 August 2018 and during October 2018	81 councils	19 August 2018	30 June 2019
March 2019	15 councils	19 August 2018	31 December 2019
During 2019 election campaign	14 councils	11 April 2019	30 June 2020
During September 2019	12 councils	27 September 2019	30 June 2020
During November 2019	128 councils	7 November 2019	31 December 2020

Eligible councils are listed on <u>business.gov.au</u> and <u>GrantConnect.</u>

For any contracted projects as at 19 December 2019, the earliest start date for these projects was 19 August 2018.

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Emma Wednesday, 11 March 2020 3:02 PM s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy RE: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [DLM=For-Official-
	Use-Only] [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
	UNOFFICIAL
Hi ^{MT-person} – thank you again for you Council in regard to this.	ur help below and I'll let you know asap if we hear anything further from Murray River
Regards,	
Emma	
Emma s47F - personal pri	
Assistant Director, Drought Taskforce	
Drought Support Branch, Regional Develo	

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Phone: ^{s47F - personal privacy} Address: GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

Email: emma. 447F - personal p@infrastructure.gov.au

UNOFFICIAL

From: s47F - personal privacy @industry.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 2:58 PM To: Emma <Emma. ****-personal privacy @infrastructure.gov.au>

Cc: s47F - personal privacy @industry.gov.au>

Subject: RE: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Emma - no problem.

And yes, they can put forward a replacement project/s that will enable them to access the full \$1 million amount.

Most Councils seem to be able to quickly identify substitute projects in the event one or more of their original projects are determined not to be eligible under the guidelines.

Regards

For Official Use Only

 From:
 #MF - personal privacy

 Emma [mailto:Emma.
 @infrastructure.gov.au]

 Sent:
 Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:51 PM

 To:
 \$47F - personal privacy
 @industry.gov.au

 Cc:
 \$47F - personal privacy
 @industry.gov.au

Subject: RE: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

UNOFFICIAL

s47F - pers

My apologies for not responding until now, but thank you very much for coordinating this information.

Also, please excuse my lack of understanding, but given the Council has not provided additional information to support these ineligible activities, can the Council choose to identify/submit replacement activities (subject to eligibility assessment) using the remaining funding allocation?

Thank you again for all your help in pulling this information together and in advance for responding to my latest request.

Regards, Emma

Emma ^{BAF-personal pri Assistant Director, Drought Taskforce Drought Support Branch, Regional Development and Local Government Division Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Phone: ^{SAFF-personal privacy} Address: GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601 Email: <u>emma.</u>^{SAFF-personal}@infrastructure.gov.au}

UNOFFICIAL

From: s47F - personal privacy @industry.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 9:12 AM
To: s47F - personal privacy Emma < Emma. error and privacy @infrastructure.gov.au >
Cc Karen < Karen < Karen. **** @infrastructure.gov.au>; **** Matthew
< <u>Matthew</u> , and the second provided the second
@industry.gov.au>

Subject: RE: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Emma

Murray River Council lodged its **phase 6** application for \$1 million (DCP000535) under the DCP in February 2020. That application has not yet been submitted to the delegate for approval - Council has been asked to amend it so that all proposed activities are eligible.

Note that Council lodged its **phase 5** application (DCP000534), also for \$1 million, during January 2020. DCP000534 was approved by the delegate on 18 February 2020.

For DCP000535, the first two of Council's seven proposed projects were described as follows:

1. Barham Micro Abattoir Project involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Barham Micro Abattoir

The proposed activity grant value is \$115,000, which is sought to contribute to the development of a micro abattoir. Once developed, Council would lease the facility to a cooperative of local meat producers.

An attachment to the grant application states that "*If successful the project will receive up to \$1.787 million* [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], *however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project.*"

Following assessment of the application, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the proposed activity was ineligible under section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines - "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

On 11 February 2020, Council requested that the assessment outcome be reconsidered. Council did not provide any additional documentation to warrant the assessment team changing its assessment.

On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found that it was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.

Council Advice

In its recent email, Council argues that the abattoir will:

- will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting)
- will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business

Comment

None of the additional information provided by Council is new. The project involves the development of a commercial venture. It is also noted that there is risk associated with the proposed project with the current unsettled status of the land ownership.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: 847F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au



For Official Use Only

From: s47F - personal privacy	Emma [mailto:Emma.	earr - personal privace @infrastructure.gov.au]	
Cont. Mada anda	. 4 Manak 2020 2.42 D	 N <i>A</i>	

Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 3:43 PM

 To: s47F - personal privacy
 @industry.gov.au>

 Cc:
 \$47F - personal privacy
 @infrastructure.gov.au>;

 S47F - personal privacy
 Matthew

<<u>Matthew</u>.^{47F - personal privacy}@infrastructure.gov.au>; ^{47F - personal privacy}@infrastructure.gov.au>; ^{47F - personal privacy}@industry.gov.au>

Subject: DCP000535: Mid River Council - Request for information on project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible [SEC=OFFICIAL] **Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F - perso

As discussed, we have received a request that we would be very grateful for your assistance with. We have been asked to provide a response to our Minister's Office on the reasons the two DCP projects below have been 'rejected'. As discussed, this request for information appears to have been generated following an email from AusIndustry to Mid River Council following up on ineligible project components (see below) and we would be very grateful for any information on the assessment these projects etc and any subsequent contact with the Council.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Regards, Emma Emma Emma dff - parsonal Assistant Director, Drought Taskforce Drought Support Branch, Regional Development and Local Government Division Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Phone: dff - personal privace Address: GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601 Email: emma. dff - personal @infrastructure.gov.au

From: s47F - personal privacy (S. Ley, MP) [mailto: s47F - personal privacy @aph.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 11:42 AM

To: s47F - personal privacy

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

@awe.gov.au>

s47F - personal pri

As discussed a wordy appeal to Min Ley as follows...

In short Murray River Council feels the strict application of the program criteria has either been misapplied or is removing common sense from the reviewed decision. The two road blocks detailed below^{*},** and precis as follows

 *Micro abattoir proposal is not a private or commercial entity; will be owned by council; is trying to fill a market gap where there is no competing local business

irrelevant material

Any assistance appreciated. Regards

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier today to discuss Council's funding submission for the Drought Communities Program, particularly with regards to two pertinent project activities that the Program Management and Delivery Team deem ineligible.

Council initially considered 9 projects for the Drought Communities Program for works to be completed by 31 December 2020 and from these, shortlisted and recommended 5 projects for funding to deliver economic stimulus and other benefits to drought-affected regions within Murray River Council.

1. Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed by assessors.

They found that the proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility will directly support 19 x local food producers and create 15 new jobs in Barham. Food producers are currently facing extremely tough financial conditions due to drought and are now compelled to transport their livestock in excess of 3.5hrs for processing at a facility in Benalla and beyond.

Council believes strongly that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria. The facility will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure and other projects that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or **commercial ventures**, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

The new micro livestock processing facility will be a Murray River Council owned asset. This asset will not create competition with any other local business or businesses within the surrounding region. This asset will provide economic benefits to the wider community.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

- The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals:
 - The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.

The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

- The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.
- The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities. The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

The Barham Micro Abattoir is a priority project for Murray River Council.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring this to Sussan's attention and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest,

Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 11:59 AM To: s47F - personal privacy@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s47F

As discussed by phone this morning, below is the outcome of Council's request to reconsider two project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible for funding under the Drought Communities Program – Extension Grant Guidelines.

Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed.

The proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".



If Council would seek to have this proposal reassessed as part of grant DCP000535 please resubmit plans and budgets which clearly identify the specific eligible works to being proposed.

This application has been returned to draft in the portal and can be updated and resubmitted by Council when it has reconsidered its proposed project activities.

I again encourage Council to refer to the grant guidelines to self-assess the eligibility of proposed activities and expenditure before seeking consideration of new proposed activities.

Regards





strF - personal privacy | Manager Economic Development & Tourism
 Murray River Council | Moama Office | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731
 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710
 f 03 5884 3417 | strF - personal privacy

1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

OFFICIAL

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and

Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

From:	s47F - personal privacy Emma
Sent:	Friday, 13 March 2020 7:27 AM
То:	Karen
Subject:	RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen

Your revised wording reads well and accurately reflects the Departments/Hub's intended message – thank you.

I've been through the text a few times and am not sure what question you had on the date.

Regards, Emma

OFFICIAL

From: Karen <karen.< th=""></karen.<>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2020 4:20 PM
To: 547F - personal privacy Emma < Emma. 547F - personal privacy @infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Emma, can you please run your eye over the following advice to the MO. Also one question on a date. Thanks Karen

+++++

We have now received further information on the Murray River Council's proposed projects.

- Murray River Council lodged its **phase 6** application for \$1 million under the DCP in February 2020. Two of the proposed projects are not considered eligible by the Grants Hub, and Council has been asked to amend it's application so that all proposed activities are eligible. This may include replacing the projects assessed as ineligible with alternate eligible projects.
- Murray River Council lodged its **phase 5** application, also for \$1 million, during January 2020. Projects and funding were approved on 18 February 2020.

Two of the seven projects proposed in the **phase 6** application are:

1. Barham Micro Abattoir Project, which involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Barham Micro Abattoir

- The proposed activity grant value is \$115,000, which is sought to contribute to the development of a micro abattoir. Once developed, Council would lease the facility to a cooperative of local meat producers.
- An attachment to the grant application states that "If successful the project will receive up to \$1.787 million [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project."
- Following assessment of the application, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the proposed activity was ineligible under section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".
- On 11 February 2020, Council requested the outcome of the assessment be reconsidered. However, Council did not provide any additional documentation to warrant a change in the assessment.
- On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found that it was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.
- In its recent email, Council argues that the abattoir will:
 - will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting)
 - will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business
- The Grants Hub advises that none of the additional information provided by Council is new. The project involves the development of a commercial venture. There is also a risk associated with the proposed project, given the unsettled status of the land ownership.

Karen s47F - personal privac	
Director	
Drought Regional	
Development and Local	
Government Division	
Department of	
Infrastructure, Transport,	
Regional Development and	
Communications	
t: s47F - personal privacy m: s47F - person	
	A the product year, broad of the product and the thorae of product that the horae. Support of advances, here is grandwater at advances at a second of product that the horae.
w:	×
www.infrastructure.gov.au	
GPO Box 594, Canberra	
ACT 2601	

The department proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia, and their continuing connections to the land, waters and communities. We pay our respects to them and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

OFFICIAL

 From: s47F - personal privacy
 @awe.gov.au>

 Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:32 PM

 To: **** personal privacy
 @infrastructure.gov.au>

 Subject: RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks!

From: ^{EXTE - personal privac} Karen [mailto:Karen.^{EXTE - personal privac}@infrastructure.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:31 PM

To: 447F - personal privacy @awe.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi^{s47F}

I followed up with the Hub again this morning and asked for advice today.

Karen

OFFICIAL

From: s47F - personal privacy

@awe.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:16 PM

To: Karen < <u>Karen</u> ,
Hi Karen,
Checking in to see if there might be an update on this one?
Kind regards,
s47F - personal pri
s47F - personal privacy – Adviser Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7190 s47F - personal privacy
From: s47F - personal privacy Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 12:03 PM To: 'Karen. "#F-personal privacy" @infrastructure.gov.au' < Karen.

Hello Karen,

We've received the below email via Minister Ley's office – the Murray River Council has queried two projects that have been rejected under their DCP project application

Appreciate any advice you or your team have on this

Kind regards,

s47F - personal privacy – Adviser Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7630 s47F - personal privacy

From: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} (S. Ley, MP) [mailto: ^{\$47F - personal privacy}@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 11:42 AM

To: s47F - personal privacy

@awe.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s47F - personal priv

As discussed a wordy appeal to Min Ley as follows...

In short Murray River Council feels the strict application of the program criteria has either been misapplied or is removing common sense from the reviewed decision. The two road blocks detailed below^{*},** and precis as follows

*Micro abattoir proposal is not a private or commercial entity; will be owned by council; is trying to fill a
market gap where there is no competing local business

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Any assistance appreciated. Regards

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier today to discuss Council's funding submission for the Drought Communities Program, particularly with regards to two pertinent project activities that the Program Management and Delivery Team deem ineligible.

Council initially considered 9 projects for the Drought Communities Program for works to be completed by 31 December 2020 and from these, shortlisted and recommended 5 projects for funding to deliver economic stimulus and other benefits to drought-affected regions within Murray River Council.

1. Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed by assessors.

They found that the proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility will directly support 19 x local food producers and create 15 new jobs in Barham. Food producers are currently facing extremely tough financial conditions due to drought and are now compelled to transport their livestock in excess of 3.5hrs for processing at a facility in Benalla and beyond.

Council believes strongly that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria. The facility will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or commercial ventures, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

The new micro livestock processing facility will be a Murray River Council owned asset. This asset will not create competition with any other local business or businesses within the surrounding region. This asset will provide economic benefits to the wider community.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

- The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals: The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions. The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term. The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.
- The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.
- The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities. The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

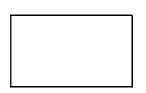
The Barham Micro Abattoir is a priority project for Murray River Council.



s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring this to Sussan's attention and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest,



sonal privacy | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 11:59 AM To: s47F - personal privacy@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

s47F - personal

As discussed by phone this morning, below is the outcome of Council's request to reconsider two project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible for funding under the Drought Communities Program – Extension Grant Guidelines.

Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed.

The proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".



If Council would seek to have this proposal reassessed as part of grant DCP000535 please resubmit plans and budgets which clearly identify the specific eligible works to being proposed.

This application has been returned to draft in the portal and can be updated and resubmitted by Council when it has reconsidered its proposed project activities.

I again encourage Council to refer to the grant guidelines to self-assess the eligibility of proposed activities and expenditure before seeking consideration of new proposed activities.

Regards



s47F - personal privac

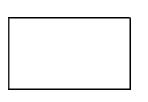
Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: ^{847F - personal privacy} Internet: <u>www.business.gov.au</u>



Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources







Murray River Council | Moama Office | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 | m ^{\$47F - personal privacy}

1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

------ IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

From: Sent: To: Subject: Friday, 13 March 2020 11:38 AM s47F - personal privacy RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Yep, but I think the important point is that Council can substitute alternate projects and not lose the funding.

Karen

OFFICIAL

 From: s47F - personal privacy

 Sent: Friday, 13 March 2020 11:27 AM

 To: MTC- personal proof: Karen

 Subject: RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Karen, appreciate you sending this through.

I believe Minister Ley's office and the council will be disappointed, but I certainly can't fault the reasoning used by the Hub in deeming the two below proposed projects ineligible.

Thanks again.

s47F - personal privacy – Adviser Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7190 M: ^{547F - personal privacy}

 From:
 MTF-personal privacy

 @infrastructure.gov.au]

 Sent:
 Friday, 13 March 2020 11:19 AM

 To:
 s47F - personal privacy

 @awe.gov.au

 Subject:
 RE:

 Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F - person

Sorry for the delay in getting this one to you. We have now received further information on the Murray River Council's proposed projects.

Murray River Council lodged its **phase 6** application for \$1 million under the DCP in February 2020. Two of the proposed projects are not considered eligible by the Grants Hub, and Council has been asked to amend it's application so that all proposed activities are eligible. <u>This can include replacing the projects assessed as ineligible with alternate eligible projects. The two ineligible projects are:</u>

 Barham Micro Abattoir Project, which involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Details on the projects and outcomes of the assessment follow.

I note that Murray River Council lodged its **phase 5** application, also for \$1 million, during January 2020. Projects and funding were approved on 18 February 2020.

Please let me know if you would like any more information, Karen

Barham Micro Abattoir

- The proposed activity grant value is \$115,000, which is sought to contribute to the development of a micro abattoir. Once developed, Council would lease the facility to a cooperative of local meat producers.
- An attachment to the grant application states that "If successful the project will receive up to \$1.787 million [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project."
- Following assessment of the application, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the proposed activity was ineligible under section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".
- On 11 February 2020, Council requested the outcome of the assessment be reconsidered. However, Council did not provide any additional documentation to support a change in the outcome of the assessment.
- On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found it was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.
- In its recent email, Council argues that the abattoir will:
 - will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting)
 - will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.
- The Grants Hub advises that none of the additional information provided by Council is new. The project involves the development of a commercial venture. There is also a risk associated with the proposed project, given the unsettled status of the land ownership.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

OFFICIAL

 From: s47F - personal privacy
 @awe.gov.au>

 Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:32 PM

 To: Mrepender March 2020 1:32 PM

 Subject: RE: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks!

 From:
 MTF- personal prive: Karen [mailto:Karen.

 Sent:
 Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:31 PM

 To:
 s47F - personal privacy

 @awe.gov.au

 Subject:
 RE:

 Drought Communities
 Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s47F - personal p

I followed up with the Hub again this morning and asked for advice today.

Karen

OFFICIAL

From: s47F - personal privacy @awe.gov.au> Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2020 1:16 PM To: ****-resonal privacy @infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Hi Karen,
Checking in to see if there might be an update on this one?
Kind regards,
s47F - personal pin
s47F - personal privacy – Adviser

Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7190 s47F - personal privacy

From: s47F - personal privacy										
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2020 12:03 PM										
To: 'Karen. ^{#7F-personal pr} @infrastructure.gov.au' < <u>Karen</u> . ^{#7F-personal pr} @infrastructure.gov.au>										
Cc: Karly < Karly . Ka										
Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]										
Hello Karen,										
We've received the below email via Minister Ley's office – the Murray River Council has queried two projects that have been rejected under their DCP project application										
Appreciate any advice you or your team have on this										
Kind regards,										
s47F - personal priv										
s47F - personal privacy – Adviser										
Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP										
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Ph: 02 6277 7630 M: ^{s47F - personal privacy}										
From: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} (S. Ley, MP) [mailto: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} @aph.gov.au]										
Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 11:42 AM										
To: Ns47F - personal privacy @awe.gov.au>										
Subject: FW: Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]										

s47F - personal priva

As discussed a wordy appeal to Min Ley as follows...

In short Murray River Council feels the strict application of the program criteria has either been misapplied or is removing common sense from the reviewed decision. The two road blocks detailed below^{*},** and precis as follows

• *Micro abattoir proposal is not a private or commercial entity; will be owned by council; is trying to fill a market gap where there is no competing local business

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Any assistance appreciated. Regards

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier today to discuss Council's funding submission for the Drought Communities Program, particularly with regards to two pertinent project activities that the Program Management and Delivery Team deem ineligible.

Council initially considered 9 projects for the Drought Communities Program for works to be completed by 31 December 2020 and from these, shortlisted and recommended 5 projects for funding to deliver economic stimulus and other benefits to drought-affected regions within Murray River Council.

1. Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed by assessors.

They found that the proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility will directly support 19 x local food producers and create 15 new jobs in Barham. Food producers are currently facing extremely tough financial conditions due to drought and are now compelled to transport their livestock in excess of 3.5hrs for processing at a facility in Benalla and beyond.

Council believes strongly that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria. The facility will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought
- stimulate local community spending
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or commercial ventures, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

The new micro livestock processing facility will be a Murray River Council owned asset. This asset will not create competition with any other local business or businesses within the surrounding region. This asset will provide economic benefits to the wider community.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

 The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals: The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.

The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

 The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.

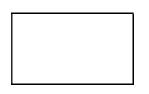
 The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities. The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

The Barham Micro Abattoir is a priority project for Murray River Council.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We would be extremely grateful if you could bring this to Sussan's attention and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kindest,



Reference of the second private of the second private

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2020 11:59 AM To: s47F - personal privacy<u>@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</u>> Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Hi s47F - perso

As discussed by phone this morning, below is the outcome of Council's request to reconsider two project activities which have been previously assessed as ineligible or partially ineligible for funding under the Drought Communities Program – Extension Grant Guidelines.

Proposed activity – Barham Micro Abattoir

At the request of Council this proposed activity and the related supporting documentation has been reassessed.

The proposed activity, Barham Micro Abattoir, is an ineligible activity as previously advise, in accordance with section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines, "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

If Council would seek to have this proposal reassessed as part of grant DCP000535 please resubmit plans and budgets which clearly identify the specific eligible works to being proposed.

This application has been returned to draft in the portal and can be updated and resubmitted by Council when it has reconsidered its proposed project activities.

I again encourage Council to refer to the grant guidelines to self-assess the eligibility of proposed activities and expenditure before seeking consideration of new proposed activities.

Regards

s47F - personal privac

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: Stars of the second privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au



Murray River Council | Moama Office | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 **S47F - personal privacy 1300 087 004** | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

------ IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------ -----

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

Date of Request	Council	Project ID	Initiating Officer (ie. DITRDC or Grants Hub)	Subject (ie. Project Eligibility Question)	Issue		e Decision (ie. Summary of proposed solution, clarification and decision)	Action Agreed to be Undertaken	Considered By	Date Issue Considered	Link to Relevant Documentation (ie. Copies of correspondence, approval and response)
	0	\mathbf{D}	1)	10	\/::\	irr		ont	\mathbf{m}	nt	oriol
5	2	2(<u>)(II)</u>	- irr	elev	an		au	ena

Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension

Date of Request	Council	Project ID	Initiating Officer (ie. DITRDC or Grants Hub)	Subject (ie. Project Eligibility Question)		Rationale for Decision (ie. Taskforce thinking, Policy position, and views which support the decision)	Decision (ie. Summary of proposed solution, clarification and decision)	Action Agreed to be Undertaken	Considered By	Date Issue Considered	Link to Relevant Documentation (ie. Copies of correspondence, approval and response)
S	2	2((1)	(a)(ii)	- irre	eleva	ant r	na	ate	erial

Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension

Date of Request	Council	Project ID	Initiating Officer (ie. DITRDC or Grants Hub)	Subject (ie. Project Eligibility Question)	Issue	Rationale for Decision (ie. Taskforce thinking, Policy position, and views which support the decision)	Decision (ie. Summary of proposed solution, clarification and decision)	Action Agreed to be Undertaken	Considered By	Date Issue Considered	Link to Relevant Documentation (ie. Copies of correspondence, approval and response)
26-Feb-20	Murray River Council	DCP000535	I47F - personal privacij Industry Grants Hub	submitted an application under Phase 5 involving seven sub-projects, of which the two activities were assessed by both the	Murray River Council submitted an application for seven separate activities, and two of the activities were identified as ineligible by the Grants Hub. The Council made a request to Minister Littleproud's Office to the request that the assessment be reconsidered. DITRDC reviewed the assessment and also identified both activities as ineligible under the terms of the DCPE Guidelines.	for the Barham Micro Abattoir project to construct a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. However, this activity was assessed as ineligible given it sought funding for the development of a commercial venture. s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material	The reasoning why DCPE funding was unable to used to progress these activities was explained to Murray River Council by Minister Littleproud's Office. Going forward, the Grants Hub is continuing to work with the Council as they identify alternate activities to be progressed that meet the DCPE eligibility requirements.	to work with the Council to encourage	Karen ⁴⁴⁷⁶ polis Director Drought Taskforce	13-Mar-20	G:\RD&LG\Drought Taskforce\1 - DCP\Grants Hub\Eligibility_ Issues\20200304 DCP00535 Murray River Council re request for reassessment of ineligible apps

Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension

Date of Request	Council	Project ID	Initiating Officer (ie. DITRDC or Grants Hub)	Subject (ie. Project Eligibility Question)		Rationale for Decision (ie. Taskforce thinking, Policy position, and views which support the decision)		Action Agreed to be Undertaken			Link to Relevant Documentation (ie. Copies of correspondence, approval and response)
S	22	2(1)	(a))(ii)	- irre	eleva	ant r	na	ate	erial

Date of Request	Council	Project ID	Initiating Officer (ie. DITRDC or Grants Hub)	Subject (ie. Project Eligibility Question)		Rationale for Decision (ie. Taskforce thinking, Policy position, and views which support the decision)		Action Agreed to be Undertaken	Considered By	Date Issue Considered	Link to Relevant Documentation (ie. Copies of correspondence, approval and response)
Sź	22	2(1)	(a)(ii)	- irre	elev	ant	m	at	erial

From:	s47F - personal privacy Emma
Sent:	Monday, 30 March 2020 1:05 PM
To:	s47F - personal privac, Karen; s47F - personal pr Malcolm
Cc:	s47F - personal privacy
Subject:	RE: DCPE project [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments:	Murray River Council - DCP000535 application review request [SEC=OFFICIAL]; RE:
	Drought Communities Projects (2nd rd) application review request
	[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Karen (and Mal)

Yes, this is the same project that we had to provide advice to the MO on in mid-March 2020. Emails from me to you about this project attached (will find your response to MO shortly).

In summary, the Council is seeking to allocate a portion of the DCP Phase 5 funding to seven sub-projects, of which the two outlined below are assessed by both the Hub and us as ineligible.

Please find below details on this project:

Project ID: DCP000534

LGA: Murray River Council

Project Name: Regeneration of regional communities within Murray River Council

Project Description: The project comprises building of new community facilities and spaces (a new tourist attraction in Moulamein Heritage Village involving extensive site preparation and earthworks to construct a storm water retention pond, car park, footpaths, toilet block and dismantle move and reconstruct the 'Jeraly' woolshed); upgrades to community facilities (lighting and scoreboard at the Moama Recreation Reserve sports facility, air conditioning equipment at Bunnaloo Hall) and community events (the Bunnaloo Ball and Moama Australian Open Darts Festival).

Approved Funding: \$1,000,000 Total Project Cost: \$1,062,192

Status: Project is due to reach completion in June 2020 and \$500,000 in DCP funds has been released to the Council to date. Council initially identified 7 sub-projects to undertake, of which the Hub assessed the two projects below as ineligible. The Council then requested the Hub reconsider, prior to seeking reconsideration from Minister LIttleproud. Based on the email attached, we agreed with the Hub original assessment that these two sub-projects were ineligible.

Reason sub-projects not approved:

The first two of Council's seven proposed projects under Phase 5 were described by Murray River Council in their application as:

1. Barham Micro Abattoir Project - involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.



Barham Micro Abattoir:

- The proposed project grant value is \$115,000 and Council outlined in their application that they intend to lease the facility, when completed, to a cooperative of local meat producers. An attachment to the grant application stated that "If successful, the project will receive up to \$1.787 million in total [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project".
- Following assessment of the application by the Grants Hub, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the proposed activity was assessed as ineligible in accordance with Section 5.4 of the Guidelines (Ineligible Expenditure), whereby "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures, including licenced areas of registered clubs".
- On 11 February 2020, Council requested that the assessment outcome be reconsidered. Council did not provide any additional documentation to warrant the assessment team changing its assessment.
- On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found that the proposed project was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.
- Based on the additional information provided by Council to Minister Ley's Office on 27 February 2020, Council advise that the completed abattoir project will:
 - will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting); and
 - will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.
- However, the Grants Hub have reviewed the Council's latest request for clarification and advise that none of the
 additional information provided by Council is new. Furthermore, the Grants Hub are unchanged in their assessment
 that the project involves the development of a commercial venture. It is also noted that there is risk associated with
 the proposed project with the current unsettled status of the land ownership.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Engagement between Council and the Grants Hub: As above, the Council has requested the Hub reconsider the assessment of their two sub-projects are ineligible.

Regards Emma

Emma ^{AFF} - parsonal

 From:
 Image: Construction of the second of the second

OFFICIAL

Hi Emma and Mal

The Murray River project has been rejected twice and Council has complained to the MO. Could you please talk to the Hub and get some details – project name, description, reason not approved, engagement between the Hub and Council. An urgent-ish one, please.

We have previously provided advice to the MO on a project not approved - was it this one??

Thanks Karen

OFFICIAL

_	s47F - personal private)
From:	Karen
Sent:	Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:52 PM
То:	s47F - personal privacy
Cc:	s47F - personal privacy Karly
Subject:	Drought Communities Projects Extension - Murray River Council [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F - perso

I refer to your request, to Karly, for advice on projects submitted for funding from the DCPE by the Murray River Council.

Murray River Council lodged its **phase 6** application for \$1 million under the DCP in February 2020. Two of the proposed projects are not considered eligible by the Grants Hub, and Council has been asked to amend it's application so that all proposed activities are eligible. This can include replacing the projects assessed as ineligible with alternate eligible projects. The two ineligible projects are:

 Barham Micro Abattoir Project, which involves the construction of a new modular multi species facility to service Southern Regional NSW producers. This funding will be allocated to power connection to the site.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Details on the projects and outcomes of the assessment follow. I note that Murray River Council lodged its **phase 5** application, also for \$1 million, during January 2020. Projects and funding were approved on 18 February 2020.

Please let me know if you would like any more information, Karen

Barham Micro Abattoir

- The proposed activity grant value is \$115,000, which is sought to contribute to the development of a micro abattoir. Once developed, Council would lease the facility to a cooperative of local meat producers.
- An attachment to the grant application states that "If successful the project will receive up to \$1.787 million [from a NSW Government, Growing Local Economies grant], however, MRC/Murray Plains Meat Cooperative will have to provide a further \$375,000 as a contribution to the project."
- Following assessment of the application, Council was advised on 10 February 2020 that the proposed activity was ineligible under section 5.4 Ineligible Expenditure of the grant guidelines "Examples of ineligible expenditure include..... the development of private or commercial ventures...".
- On 11 February 2020, Council requested the outcome of the assessment be reconsidered. However, Council did not provide any additional documentation to support a change in the outcome of the assessment.
- On 26 February 2020, Council was advised that reassessment of the proposed activity against the grant guidelines found it was an ineligible activity, being the development of a private or commercial venture. It is also noted that Council does not own the land upon which the proposed abattoir is to be constructed. Instead, Council advises that it will purchase the land if the \$1.787 million grant application was successful.
- In its recent email, Council argues that the abattoir will:
 - will add significant economic benefit to the community (create 15 new jobs in Barham; support 19 local food producers through reduced livestock transporting)
 - will be council owned and will not be in competition with any existing business.

• The Grants Hub advises that none of the additional information provided by Council is new. The project involves the development of a commercial venture. There is also a risk associated with the proposed project, given the unsettled status of the land ownership.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

OFFICIAL

.

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Wednesday, 1 April 2020 5:14 PM HTF - personal privace Emma; MTF - personal privace Katherine RE: Items for discussion at this afternoon's teleconference [SEC=OFFICIAL]				
	OFFICIAL				
Thanks Emma and Mal.					
	OFFICIAL				
From: Marrow Personal privacy Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 2:55 PM To: Marrow Personal Privacy Malcolm ; Malcolm Malcolm Cc: Marrow Personal Privacy Karen ; Katherine Subject: FW: Items for discussion at this afternoon's teleconference [SEC=OFFICIAL] Importance: High					
Hi Mal					
If Karen agrees, I will update the could you please update it based on today's discussion?					
Regards, Emma					
From: MTF-personal prive: Karen < Karen.					
	OFFICIAL				

Hi Everyone

Following is a bit of an agenda for this afternoon's telecon – we have quite a bit to work through!

- 1. Variations currently underway (timing, process, status)
- 2. Proposal for variations due to COVID-19
- 3. Timing for contracting
- 4. Frequency of reporting
- 5. Specific Issues

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

b. Murray River Council s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Is there anything I have missed?

karen

OFFICIAL

From: Sent: To: Subject: Karen Wednesday, 1 April 2020 5:39 PM Karly RE: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

So, we didn't get to discuss this one today.

We had a good and long discussion with the Hub about a range of issues, including this one. The Hub has had a lot of discussions with this Council and, thus far, Council has not been willing to revise its projects in any way. I noted the advice below about changing the scope of the ^{s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material} and the Hub welcomed that. Based on this, we don't expect any problems with this project.

We talked through the abbitoir project and I asked if there were any precedents that may be useful (not an abbitoir, but another commercial-type facility which is being operated on a not-for-profit basis or includes commercial tennants). They didn't think so but were going to check. The Hub will also discuss this one with Council, particularly the now not-fo

OFFICIAL

r-profit operation. I will follow up again on Monday.

If the Hub can't reach agreement with Council, we will have a look at Ministerial discretion.

k

om: ^{s47F - personal privacy}arly Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 6:54 AM To: ^{s47F - personal privacy}Karen Subject: Re: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Yes, let's. 🔒

OFFICIAL

From: "^{s47F - personal privacy} Karen" <<u>Karen</u>.^{ktr - personal privacy}@infrastructure.gov.au> Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 at 6:47:59 am To: "^{s47F - personal privacy} Karly" <<u>Karly</u>.^{str - personal privacy}@infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: Re: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

We have a telecon with the hub at 2.30 to discuss a few dcpe issues, so can add this one to the agenda. Can we talk before then?

Κ

OFFICIAL 1 Page 84 of 120

From: "^{s47F - personal privacy} Karly" <<u>Karly</u>. ^{s47F - personal privacy} @infrastructure.gov.au> Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 at 6:25:38 am To: "^{s47F - personal privacy} Karen" <<u>Karen</u>. ^{s47F - personal privacy} @infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen – I spoke with Kimberly last night about this one. The MO would like us or the Hub to assist Murray River with adjusting their project scope as appropriate to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Re the abattoir, the council seems to propose using rent from facilities for not-for-profit purposes, but the leasing of the facility would allow for commercial activities. Does it make any difference if the commercial activities are not exclusive, i.e. available to all members of the community for use? Can we check whether there are any precedents that have seen council facilities upgraded which are leased for any commercial purposes? (E.g. a commercial building with offices that might house tenants engaging in commercial activities.) If not, I am not confident there is any way this project scope can be adjusted to be compliant with the guidelines. As I will need to advise the MO on this, can we step out by draft email who the authorised approver is for project eligibility (ie the Hub) and whether there any options/exceptions – e.g. do the guidelines allow for any consideration of projects outside the guidelines? (e.g. Ministerial discretion?)

If the answer on the second project is no, we may also need to advise the council directly (working with the Hub of course, on whether that is appropriate or whether they should be contacting the council) on the outcome of their Ministerial representations. Can we discuss today?

Thanks KP

OFFICIAL

 From: s47F - personal privacy
 @awe.gov.au>

 Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 6:16 PM

 To: *** personal privacy
 @infrastructure.gov.au>

 Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

 Importance: High

Karly, Appreciate if you can look into this. Thanks, Kimberly

From:\$47F - personal privacy(S. Ley, MP) [mailto:\$47F - personal privacy@aph.gov.au]Sent:Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:25 PMTo:\$47F - personal privacy@agriculture.gov.au>Cc:\$47F - personal privacy@environment.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

Hi Kimberley

Revised submission follows.

A lot of paper work (apols) but have highlighted the relevant as follows and below. We would really appreciate any assistance.

In a nutshell...

Abattoir – will be run/operated as a not for profit s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

The Council is absolutely prepared to go that extra mile to get the projects over the line but feel they have done so already.

If these revised proposal are not suitable – can a grants officer (someone) tell them exactly what they need to do to get this through?

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Adviser

The Hon Sussan Ley MP Federal Member for Farrer | Minister for the Environment Ph Albury 02 6021 3264 | Canberra 02 6277 7920 | s47F - personal privacy

From: s47F - personal privacyn@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au] Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:04 PM To: H7F - personal privacy (S. Ley, MP) Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] Importance: High

Dear ^{47F}

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. We really appreciate your time and support with our application for funding under the Drought Communities Program.

Attached and below is the most recent submission from Council for reassessment of both the Barham Micro Abattoir s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

I will forward a negative impact report highlighting the current decline of the communities directly affected by the Barham Micro Abattoir if the 19 businesses from the Cooperative were to fold. Council have made every endeavour to support this project.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kindest,



s47F - personal privacy | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: s47F - personal privac

Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 3:06 PM To: 'Drought Communities Programme' <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Subject: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] Importance: High

Dear Rob,

I write with regards to the reassessment of the proposed activity for the **Barham Micro Abattoir Project**. This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility has a proposed activity grant value of \$375,000 as per budgetv3 submitted on 11 February. Also attached herewith for ease of reference.

Council firmly believes that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

local community infrastructure and other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure <u>and other projects</u> **that**:

provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought;

stimulate local community spending;

use local resources, businesses and suppliers;

provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

This project will deliver enabling infrastructure that will initially benefit 19 x local food producers and we expect that number to more than double. The infrastructure will meet a serious gap in meat processing services and will provide economic benefits to the wider community including the creation of 15 new jobs.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

the development of private or commercial ventures, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

Council will own and lease the facility to Murray Plains Meat Cooperative. <mark>Any funds received from the lease of the</mark> facility will be used for the ongoing maintenance of the facility.

Council will not profit from the lease agreement and will be not-for-profit in relation to this project. Council is looking to provide a service to keep 19 x businesses from the most drought affected region in operation.

There are no meat processing facilities or services within the surrounding region and therefore this asset will not create competition with any other businesses in the surrounding area.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals:

The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.

The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.

The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities:

The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities.

The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

Attached is a copy of the Confidential minutes from Council Meeting in November when it was agreed that Council will support this project.

Council are 100% committed to this application for funding. The Barham Micro Abattoir is priority project for Council.

Our Mayor has now contacted The Hon Sussan Ley MP to see if there is a way at a Ministerial Level that Council, due to special circumstances, may be exempt from this provision of the guidelines. We will advise the outcome of these discussions as soon as practicable.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We look forward to further recommendations you may have with regards to the additional documentation attached herewith.

We will upload the documentation and further particulars via the online portal and provide you with an update regarding any communication from the Ministers Office.

Kindest,



s47F - personal privacy | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Thursday, 26 March 2020 9:57 AM To: ^{s47F - personal privacy}@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good morning s47F - person

As you have noted, Council referred the ineligible outcome advice to the local Federal Member to seek reconsideration from the Minister.

My Team has not received any advice from the Minister in relation to reconsidering our assessment of the grant application.

As such I am unable to take further action until such advice is received.

This Team will contact you when this advice is received.

Regards

s47F - personal privac

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: 847F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------ From: Sent: To: Subject:

Yes, let's. 🏠

Karly Wednesday, 1 April 2020 6:54 AM Karen Re: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: "^{EATF-personal priver} Karen" <<u>Karen</u>^{EATF-personal prive}@infrastructure.gov.au> Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 at 6:47:59 am To: "^{EATF-personal priver} Karly" <<u>Karly</u>.^{EATF-personal prive}@infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: Re: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

We have a telecon with the hub at 2.30 to discuss a few dcpe issues, so can add this one to the agenda. Can we talk before then?

К

OFFICIAL

From: "^{EXTE-personal privacy} Karly" <<u>Karly</u>. ^{EXTE-personal privacy} @infrastructure.gov.au> Date: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 at 6:25:38 am To: "^{EXTE-personal privacy} Karen" <<u>Karen</u>. ^{EXTE-personal privacy @infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]}

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen – I spoke with Kimberly last night about this one. The MO would like us or the Hub to assist Murray River with adjusting their project scope as appropriate to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Re the abattoir, the council seems to propose using rent from facilities for not-for-profit purposes, but the leasing of the facility would allow for commercial activities. Does it make any difference if the commercial activities are not exclusive, i.e. available to all members of the community for use? Can we check whether there are any precedents that have seen council facilities upgraded which are leased for any commercial purposes? (E.g. a commercial building with offices that might house tenants engaging in commercial activities.) If not, I am not confident there is any way this project scope can be adjusted to be compliant with the guidelines. As I will need to advise the MO on this, can we step out by draft email who the authorised approver is for project eligibility (ie the Hub) and whether there any options/exceptions – e.g. do the guidelines allow for any consideration of projects outside the guidelines? (e.g. Ministerial discretion?) If the answer on the second project is no, we may also need to advise the council directly (working with the Hub of course, on whether that is appropriate or whether they should be contacting the council) on the outcome of their Ministerial representations.

OFFICIAL

From: s47F - personal privacy

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 6:16 PM

To: Karly

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

Karly,

Appreciate if you can look into this.

Thanks,

From: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} (S. Ley, MP) [mailto:^{\$47F - personal privacy}@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:25 PM

To: s47F - personal privacy @agriculture.gov.au>

Cc: s47F - personal privacy <u>@environment.gov.au</u>>

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

Hi s47F - person

Revised submission follows.

A lot of paper work (apols) but have highlighted the relevant as follows and below.

We would really appreciate any assistance.

In a nutshell...

Abattoir – will be run/operated as a not for profit

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

The Council is absolutely prepared to go that extra mile to get the projects over the line but feel they have done so already.

If these revised proposal are not suitable – can a grants officer (someone) tell them exactly what they need to do to get this through?

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Adviser

The Hon Sussan Ley MP

Federal Member for Farrer | Minister for the Environment Ph Albury 02 6021 3264 | Canberra 02 6277 7920 | ^{\$47F - personal privacy}

From: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} [mailto:^{\$47F - personal}@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:04 PM

To: s47F - personal privacy (S. Ley, MP)

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Importance: High

Dear Dear

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. We really appreciate your time and support with our application for funding under the Drought Communities Program.

Attached and below is the most recent submission from Council for reassessment of both the Barham Micro Abattoir and the s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

y through increased

visitation and overnight stays and give a much needed boost to local accommodation operators.

I will forward a negative impact report highlighting the current decline of the communities directly affected by the Barham Micro Abattoir if the 19 businesses from the Cooperative were to fold. Council have made every endeavour to support this project.

Please let me know if you require anything further. Kindest,



| Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: s47F - personal privac

Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 3:06 PM

To: 'Drought Communities Programme' < DCP@industry.gov.au>

Subject: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Importance: High

Dear Dear

I write with regards to the reassessment of the proposed activity for the **Barham Micro Abattoir Project**. This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility has a proposed activity grant value of \$375,000 as per budgetv3 submitted on 11 February. Also attached herewith for ease of reference.

Council firmly believes that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- <u>other drought relief programs</u>.

Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought;
- stimulate local community spending;
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers;
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

This project will deliver enabling infrastructure that will initially benefit 19 x local food producers and we expect that number to more than double. The infrastructure will meet a serious gap in meat processing services and will provide economic benefits to the wider community including the creation of 15 new jobs.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or commercial ventures, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

Council will own and lease the facility to Murray Plains Meat Cooperative. <mark>Any funds received from the lease of the</mark> facility will be used for the ongoing maintenance of the facility.

Council will not profit from the lease agreement and will be not-for-profit in relation to this project. Council is looking to provide a service to keep 19 x businesses from the most drought affected region in operation.

There are no meat processing facilities or services within the surrounding region and therefore this asset will not create competition with any other businesses in the surrounding area.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

• The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals:

The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.

The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

- The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.
- The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities.

The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

Attached is a copy of the Confidential minutes from Council Meeting in November when it was agreed that Council will support this project.

Council are 100% committed to this application for funding. The Barham Micro Abattoir is priority project for Council. Our Mayor has now contacted The Hon Sussan Ley MP to see if there is a way at a Ministerial Level that Council, due to special circumstances, may be exempt from this provision of the guidelines. We will advise the outcome of these discussions as soon as practicable.

Kindest,



s47F - personal privacy Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Thursday, 26 March 2020 9:57 AM

To: s47F - personal privacy@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] Good morning

As you have noted, Council referred the ineligible outcome advice to the local Federal Member to seek reconsideration from the Minister.

My Team has not received any advice from the Minister in relation to reconsidering our assessment of the grant application.

As such I am unable to take further action until such advice is received.

This Team will contact you when this advice is received.

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business Phone: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} Internet: www.business.gov.au

------ IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

From: Sent: To: Subject:	Emma Tuesday, 7 April 2020 2:51 PM Karen; Malcolm RE: Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]				
Hi Karen (and Mal)					
I just spoke to ^{s47F} - personal privacy and he confirmed that he spoke to the Council as recently as last night. . The Council will come back later this week with other options, and in the meantime s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material Regards, Emma					
From: ^{\$47F - personal privac} Karen < Karen.	@infrastructure.gov.au>				
Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 2:28	PM				
To: SAFE - personal privacy Emma < Emma < Malcolm. SAFE - personal @infrastructure	^{personal privacy} @infrastructure.gov.au>; ^{\$47F - personal p^r Malcolm e.gov.au>}				
Subject: Murray River [SEC=OFF	-				
	OFFICIAL				

Hi Emma and Mal

Sorry to bombard you – I'm playing catch up. Can you please talk with the Hub to see where they got too with Murray River Council. We discussed this one at our telecom last Wednesday, and the Hub was going to follow up with Council about revising the scope of projects to ensure their eligibility. I will need to provide an update to the MO by the end of the week, so would be grateful if you could check with the Hub on where they are at (including outcomes of any discussions with the Council).

Thanks, Karen

OFFICIAL

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

s47F - personal privacy Tuesday, 7 April 2020 2:57 PM s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy Karen RE: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Karly

An update on this one.....

We spoke to the Hub about the issues last Wednesday and asked the Hub to talk again with Council to find eligible projects. We stressed it was important to find a resolution that met the Guidelines and ensured Council would receive all of its funding. We have followed up again today and the Hub advises that Council has submitted a proposal to undertake works in a different part of the Club (not the bar). This proposal is currently being assessed. The Hub and Council continue to discuss the ineligible aspects of the abattoir project, and Council with return to the Hub later this week with options.

I will send another update early next week.

Karen

OFFICIAL

From: ^{strF-} personal privacy</sub> Karly Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 6:26 AM To: ^{strF-} personal privac Karen Subject: re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL] Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen – I spoke with Kimberly last night about this one. The MO would like us or the Hub to assist Murray River with adjusting their project scope as appropriate to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Re the abattoir, the council seems to propose using rent from facilities for not-for-profit purposes, but the leasing of the facility would allow for commercial activities. Does it make any difference if the commercial activities are not exclusive, i.e. available to all members of the community for use? Can we check whether there are any precedents that have seen

council facilities upgraded which are leased for any commercial purposes? (E.g. a commercial building with offices that might house tenants engaging in commercial activities.) If not, I am not confident there is any way this project scope can be adjusted to be compliant with the guidelines. As I will need to advise the MO on this, can we step out by draft email who the authorised approver is for project eligibility (ie the Hub) and whether there any options/exceptions – e.g. do the guidelines allow for any consideration of projects outside the guidelines? (e.g. Ministerial discretion?)

If the answer on the second project is no, we may also need to advise the council directly (working with the Hub of course, on whether that is appropriate or whether they should be contacting the council) on the outcome of their Ministerial representations.

Can we discuss today?

Thanks KP

OFFICIAL

 From: s47F - personal privacy
 @awe.gov.au>

 Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 6:16 PM

 To:
 Subject: FW: Variation (Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

 Importance: High

Karly, Appreciate if you can look into this. Thanks, MTF - personal privacy

 From:
 s47F - personal privacy
 (S. Ley, MP) [mailto:
 s47F - personal privacy
 @aph.gov.au]

 Sent:
 Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:25 PM

 To:
 s47F - personal privacy
 @agriculture.gov.au>

 Cc:
 s47F - personal privacy
 @environment.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

s47F - personal privacy

Revised submission follows.

A lot of paper work (apols) but have <mark>highlighted</mark> the relevant as follows and below. We would really appreciate any assistance.

In a nutshell...

Abattoir – will be run/operated as a not for profit s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

The Council is absolutely prepared to go that extra mile to get the projects over the line but feel they have done so already.

If these revised proposal are not suitable – can a grants officer (someone) tell them exactly what they need to do to get this through?

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Adviser

The Hon Sussan Ley MP Federal Member for Farrer I Minister for the Environment Ph Albury 02 6021 3264 | Canberra 02 6277 7920 | s47F - personal privacy

 From:
 [mailto:]
 [mailto:]

Dear Dear

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. We really appreciate your time and support with our application for funding under the Drought Communities Program.

Attached and below is the most recent submission from Council for reassessment of both the Barham Micro Abattoir and the ^{s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material}.



Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kindest,

s47F - personal privacy | Grants Officer



Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: s47F - personal privacy

Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 3:06 PM To: 'Drought Communities Programme' <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>>

Subject: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] Importance: High

Dear S47F - per

I write with regards to the reassessment of the proposed activity for the **Barham Micro Abattoir Project**. This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility has a proposed activity grant value of \$375,000 as per budgetv3 submitted on 11 February. Also attached herewith for ease of reference.

Council firmly believes that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- other drought relief programs.

Funding will target infrastructure *and other projects* that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought;
- stimulate local community spending;
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers;
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

This project will deliver enabling infrastructure that will initially benefit 19 x local food producers and we expect that number to more than double. The infrastructure will meet a serious gap in meat processing services and will provide economic benefits to the wider community including the creation of 15 new jobs.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or **commercial ventures**, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

Council will own and lease the facility to Murray Plains Meat Cooperative. <mark>Any funds received from the lease of the</mark> <mark>facility will be used for the ongoing maintenance of the facility.</mark>

Council will not profit from the lease agreement and will be not-for-profit in relation to this project. Council is looking to provide a service to keep 19 x businesses from the most drought affected region in operation.

There are no meat processing facilities or services within the surrounding region and therefore this asset will not create competition with any other businesses in the surrounding area.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

- The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals: The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions. The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term. The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.
- The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions: Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects. The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.

 The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities: The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities.
 The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

Attached is a copy of the Confidential minutes from Council Meeting in November when it was agreed that Council will support this project.

Council are 100% committed to this application for funding. The Barham Micro Abattoir is priority project for Council.

Our Mayor has now contacted The Hon Sussan Ley MP to see if there is a way at a Ministerial Level that Council, due to special circumstances, may be exempt from this provision of the guidelines. We will advise the outcome of these discussions as soon as practicable.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We look forward to further recommendations you may have with regards to the additional documentation attached herewith.

We will upload the documentation and further particulars via the online portal and provide you with an update regarding any communication from the Ministers Office.

Kindest,



^{s47F - personal privacy} | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Thursday, 26 March 2020 9:57 AM To: ^{s47F - personal privacy}@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good morning S47F - pers

As you have noted, Council referred the ineligible outcome advice to the local Federal Member to seek reconsideration from the Minister.

My Team has not received any advice from the Minister in relation to reconsidering our assessment of the grant application.

As such I am unable to take further action until such advice is received.

This Team will contact you when this advice is received.

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Program Management and Delivery AusIndustry – Support for Business

Phone: s47F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au

------ IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a

valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered -----

From:	s47F - personal privacy @awe.gov.au>
Sent:	Wednesday, 8 April 2020 5:20 PM
То:	s47F - personal privacy Karly; s47F - personal privacy
Cc:	s47F - personal privac
Subject:	RE: Re Murray River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks for the update!

From: s47F - personal privac	^v Karly [mailto:Karly. ^{s47F - personal private} @infrastructure.gov.au]
	, 8 April 2020 6:08 AM
To: s47F - personal priv	vacy
Cc: s47F - personal privacy K	aren
Subject: Re Murr	ay River [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Kimberly,

Quick update. We have spoken to the Hub about Murray River again and stressed it is important to find a resolution for the Council that meets the Guidelines.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

The Hub and the Council continue to discuss the proposed abattoir project and the Council is expected to return to the Hub later this week with options.

Kind regards KP

From: s47F - personal privacy @awe.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 6:16 PM To: ^{\$47F - personal privacy} Karly <<u>Karly</u> ^{\$47F - personal privacy} @infrastructure.gov.au> Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Importance: High

Karly,

Appreciate if you can look into this.

Thanks,



 From:
 s47F - personal privacy
 (S. Ley, MP) [mailto:
 s47F - personal privacy
 @aph.gov.au]

 Sent:
 Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:25 PM

 To:
 s47F - personal privacy
 @agriculture.gov.au>

 Cc:
 s47F - personal privacy
 @aenvironment.gov.au>

 Subject:
 FW:
 Drought Communities
 Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

 Importance:
 High

Hi Kimberley

Revised submission follows.

A lot of paper work (apols) but have highlighted the relevant as follows and below.

We would really appreciate any assistance.

In a nutshell...

Abattoir – will be run/operated as a not for profit

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

The Council is absolutely prepared to go that extra mile to get the projects over the line but feel they have done so already.

If these revised proposal are not suitable – can a grants officer (someone) tell them exactly what they need to do to get this through?

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Adviser

The Hon Sussan Ley MP

Federal Member for Farrer I Minister for the Environment

Ph Albury 02 6021 3264 I Canberra 02 6277 7920 I s47F - personal privacy

From: s47F - personal privacy @murrayriver.nsw.gov.au] Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:04 PM To: ^{s47F - personal privacy} (S. Ley, MP) Subject: FW: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] Importance: High

Dear stars,

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. We really appreciate your time and support with our application for funding under the Drought Communities Program.

Attached and below is the most recent submission from Council for reassessment of both the Barham Micro Abattoir and the ^{\$22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material}.

I will forward a negative impact report highlighting the current decline of the communities directly affected by the Barham Micro Abattoir if the 19 businesses from the Cooperative were to fold. Council have made every endeavour to support this project.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kindest.



47F - personal privacy Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731 PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710 f 03 5884 3417 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | <u>www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</u>

From: s47F - personal privacy

Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 3:06 PM To: 'Drought Communities Programme' <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Subject: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] **Importance:** High

Dear S47F - pers

I write with regards to the reassessment of the proposed activity for the **Barham Micro** Abattoir Project. This project to construct a new micro livestock processing facility has a proposed activity grant value of \$375,000 as per budgetv3 submitted on 11 February. Also attached herewith for ease of reference.

Council firmly believes that this project meets the objectives of the funding program and has been excluded as an unintended consequence of the criteria.

Section 2 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension outlines the objectives of the program to deliver support to targeted drought-affected regions of Australia by funding:

- local community infrastructure and
- <u>other drought relief programs</u>.

Funding will target infrastructure and other projects that:

- provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought;
- stimulate local community spending;
- use local resources, businesses and suppliers;
- provide a long-lasting benefit to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

This project will deliver enabling infrastructure that will initially benefit 19 x local food producers and we expect that number to more than double. The infrastructure will meet a serious gap in meat processing services and will provide economic benefits to the wider community including the creation of 15 new jobs.

Section 5.4 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension provides examples of ineligible expenditure which includes:

• the development of private or **commercial ventures**, including licensed areas of registered clubs.

Council will own and lease the facility to Murray Plains Meat Cooperative. Any funds received from the lease of the facility will be used for the ongoing maintenance of the facility.

Council will not profit from the lease agreement and will be not-for-profit in relation to this project. Council is looking to provide a service to keep 19 x businesses from the most drought affected region in operation.

There are no meat processing facilities or services within the surrounding region and therefore this asset will not create competition with any other businesses in the surrounding area.

Section 6 of the Drought Communities Programme – Extension states that each project must meet at least one of the following project requirements:

• The project is expected to lead to the employment of locals:

The new facility will create 15 new jobs and protect many more jobs within the heart of Murray River Council's most drought-affected regions.

The employment is expected to be created beyond the immediate construction phase of the project and into the longer-term.

The indirect employment is expected to be created through the potential flow-on effects to local businesses, suppliers and services.

• The project is expected to contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions:

Local businesses, suppliers and services are expected to be used to complete the projects.

The project will encourage investment, business activities and other economic benefits to communities/regions.

• The project is expected to lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities:

The benefits that should be delivered as a result of the project, such as increased trade for local businesses and improved services resulting from enhanced facilities.

The number of people that are expected to benefit from the approved project.

Attached is a copy of the Confidential minutes from Council Meeting in November when it was agreed that Council will support this project.

Council are 100% committed to this application for funding. The Barham Micro Abattoir is priority project for Council.

Our Mayor has now contacted The Hon Sussan Ley MP to see if there is a way at a Ministerial Level that Council, due to special circumstances, may be exempt from this provision of the guidelines. We will advise the outcome of these discussions as soon as practicable.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

We look forward to further recommendations you may have with regards to the additional documentation attached herewith.

We will upload the documentation and further particulars via the online portal and provide you with an update regarding any communication from the Ministers Office.

Kindest,



^{47F - personal privacy} | Grants Officer

Murray River Council | Moama | 52 Perricoota Rd Moama, NSW 2731PO Box 21, Mathoura, NSW 2710f 03 5884 3417 f 03 5884 3417 1300 087 004 | <u>www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au</u>

From: Drought Communities Programme <<u>DCP@industry.gov.au</u>> Sent: Thursday, 26 March 2020 9:57 AM To: s47F - personal privacy@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au> Subject: RE: Drought Communities Program - Extension DCP000535 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good morning s47F - person

As you have noted, Council referred the ineligible outcome advice to the local Federal Member to seek reconsideration from the Minister.

My Team has not received any advice from the Minister in relation to reconsidering our assessment of the grant application.

As such I am unable to take further action until such advice is received.

This Team will contact you when this advice is received.

Regards

s47F - personal privacy

Program Management and Delivery

AusIndustry - Support for Business

Phone: s47F - personal privacy

Internet: www.business.gov.au

------ IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ------

OFFICIAL

Disclaimer

This message has been issued by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. The information transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential and/or legally privileged material.

Any review, re-transmission, disclosure, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons

or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may result in severe penalties. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111

and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Friday, 24 April 2020 11:46 AM Friday, 24 April 2020 11:46 AM ^{547F - personal privacy} ^{647F - personal privacy} Emma RE: DCP-E Projects Approved 23/04/2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
	OFFICIAL

No worries, thanks ©

k

OFFICIAL

From: ^{s47F - personal pr} Malcolm Sent: Friday, 24 April 2020 11:37 AM To: s47F - personal privac: Karen Cc: s47F - personal privacy Emma Subject: RE: DCP-E Projects Approved 23/04/2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen

Turnaround for approvals is usually two days or less (depending on how many LGA & MP letters are required however, given the urgent details requested from the MO this will likely push that back to sometime on Wednesday.

Will be getting the approval email up to ^{strF - personal privacy} this afternoon following the urgent request.

Cheers

Mal

OFFICIAL

From: Karen < Karen.	
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2020 11:20 AM	
To: Malcolm < <u>Malcolm</u> . ****- personal privacy (@infrastructure.gov.au}; ****- personal privacy Emma	
< <u>Emma</u> ^{s47F-personal privacy} @infrastructure.gov.au>	
Subject: FW: DCP-E Projects Approved 23/04/2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only] [SEC=OFFICIAL]	

OFFICIAL

Hi Mal and Emma

When do reckon I will get the brief and letters for these approvals – I'm keen to move back to that shorter turnaround time in place when I just arrived.

k

OFFICIAL

Good morning Karen and Emma

Please find attached an approval minute for the Drought Communities Program - Extension (DCP-E) which was approved by the Delegate on 23 April 2020.

As per the agreed arrangements, we will not be notifying these applicants of the outcome of their application until we have received your advice to do so.

Please note that, with these 10, the total number of approved applications awaiting notification will be **47**.

Application	Council name	Project title	Project description
ID			

DCP000535Murray River CouncilEnhancing Drought Stricken Communities within Murray River CouncilFollowing extensive community engagement and consultation, the project will provi short and long term economic benefits by delivering community infrastructure and o drought relief activities: • construction of a new, modular micro abattoir facility in Barham to process table n from local producers • refurbishment of the clubroom facilities of the Wakool Bowling Club • development and implementation of a tourism campaign to encourage visitation t small destinations within the local government area, including Mathoura, Barham, Wakool, Moulamein, Murray Downs, Koraleigh and Tooleybuc • construction of a new tourist attrack in Tooleybuc to provide a safer passage into town fo extended user groups • construction of a new tourist attraction in Moulamein.

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Regards

s47F - personal privacy AusIndustry – Support for Business Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources Initiative | Collaboration | Direction | Resilience | Judgement

Phone s47F - personal privacy Mobile s47F - personal privacy Internet: www.business.gov.au |Subscribe to news updates



For Official Use Only

From:	s47F - personal privacy Karly
Sent:	Friday, 1 May 2020 7:57 AM
То:	s47F - personal privac
Cc:	s47F - personal privacy Emma; Emma; Malcolm
Subject:	FW: FOR COMMENT/APPROCAL: DCPE Approvals Brief [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments:	MS20-000623 to ^{#7F} .docx; MS20-000623 - Attachment B Letters to MPs to ^{#7F} .docx;
	MS20-000623 - Attachment C - s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material project summary to
	docx; MS20-000623 - Attachment D Draft Media Release to docx; MS20-000623 -
	Attachment B Letters to LGAs to ^{****} .docx; Attach A project descriptions to ^{****} .pdf

OFFICIAL

Thanks team!



Guidelines that satisfied the Hub's delegate.

Once you've reviewed and updated, good to go!

s22(1)(a)(ii) - irrelevant material

Thanks, K^{s471}

OFFICIAL

From: ^{STF -} personal prive[®] Karen Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 1:40 PM To: ^{STF -} personal prive[®] Karly Cc^{STF -} personal prive[®] Malcolm ; ^{STF -} personal privacy</sup> Emma Subject: FOR COMMENT/APPROCAL: DCPE Approvals Brief [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

DCPE approvals brief, letters and media release for comment/approval please. Huge thanks to Mal, who turned this around in 24 hours.

Mal, Emma – please note a couple of tweaks to the brief which I made after a discussion with Karly.

Karen

OFFICIAL