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Agricultural Show Development Grants Program 2025-26 Guidelines

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Community Grants and Programs
Department of Premier and Cabinet



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Acknowledgement of Aboriginal people and Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present Custodians of the Land upon which we meet and gather.

Introduction

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) are responsible for these guidelines and are referred to as 'we', 'us', or 'our'.

All references to 'you', 'my', or 'I', may be an individual and/or a representative on behalf of an organisation.

Key dates

You must submit your application by **2:00 pm on 23 April 2026**. We cannot accept late applications.

Description	Date
Program opens	9:00 am, 19 March 2026
Program closes	2:00 pm, 23 April 2026
Notification of Program Outcomes (subject to change)	Late May 2026
Funding provided	June 2026
When your project must be completed by	30 June 2027
When your final report and acquittal will be due	31 July 2027

About the Agricultural Show Development Program 2025-26

The Agricultural Show Development Program (the Program) provides funding to support Tasmania's annual agricultural shows.

The Program supports the Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, which recognises agriculture as a key driver of Tasmania's economy and regional communities.

Agriculture plays a vital role in Tasmania. It supports jobs, sustains regional communities and contributes to the State's economy.

Agricultural shows help showcase and strengthen this sector by:

- showcasing Tasmania's premium produce and livestock
- promoting innovation and best practice in agriculture
- supporting local businesses and tourism
- bringing regional communities together.

The Program aims to:

- strengthen governance and organisational capability
- improve infrastructure and accessibility
- enhance the long-term viability of show societies
- support regional economic participation and community resilience.

What can the Grant be used for?

The Grant can be used for eligible direct costs that support the sustainable operation and long-term viability of your annual agricultural show.

If you are successful, the specific Approved Purpose for your funding will be defined in the Grant Deed.

Projects must provide ongoing benefit to the show society or the regional community.

Infrastructure projects

Upgrading, maintaining or constructing infrastructure that:

- meets safety and compliance standards
- enhances amenity
- expands capacity
- improves accessibility.

Infrastructure improvements that increase accessibility are strongly encouraged.

Organisational governance and capability

Funding may support:

- developing, reviewing or updating:
 - constitution
 - business plan
 - marketing plan
 - financial plan
 - fundraising or sponsorship plan
 - risk management plan
 - volunteer management plan
 - role descriptions for executive, committee members or volunteers
 - committee succession planning policy
 - child or vulnerable-person safety policy
 - code of conduct
- committee members participating in training, workshops or courses
- accessing governance or operational resources.

Show societies are encouraged to consider existing support programs and services where relevant.

Examples of available resources include:

- the [Tasmanian Business Advice Service and the New Business Support Pilot Program](#)
- governance workshops delivered by the [Tasmanian Council of Social Service \(TasCOSS\)](#) or the [Tasmanian Community Fund](#)
- training and support available through [Volunteering Tasmania](#).

Technology and systems improvements

Projects that improve the operation, efficiency or delivery of the agricultural show, for example:

- development or upgrade of a website
- development of social media or communications systems
- online or electronic ticketing systems
- digital systems used to manage show operations or administration.

Technology purchases must directly support the delivery, administration or improvement of the agricultural show and must be clearly justified in the application.

What can't the Grant be used for?

Grant funding must only be used for the Approved Purpose. Unless agreed in writing, grant funds must not be used for:

- events, activities or projects delivered outside Tasmania
- purchasing alcohol
- purchasing vouchers or gift cards
- political activities
- personal expenses
- fundraising activities
- contingency funds
- business-as-usual costs, including normal staff wages
- expenditure funded under another grant program
- activities undertaken before the grant is approved
- legal advice, insurance, fees or fines.

Please note:

- All expenses must benefit the show society or regional community, not an individual.
- If you seek funding for costs that are not normally covered, you must clearly explain why they are essential to the Approved Purpose.
- You must demonstrate that you have the capability and capacity to deliver the Approved Purpose and sustain any ongoing costs.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for up to **\$20,000**.

The total funding pool available for the 2025-26 round is **\$147,000**.

Funding is competitive. Not all eligible applications will be funded.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants must be:

- a show society that conducts an annual agricultural show in Tasmania
- an incorporated organisation
- proposing to hold an agricultural show in 2025-26 or 2026-27.

Applicants must:

- be Tasmanian-based or have a significant presence in Tasmania
- hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- hold appropriate public liability insurance.

Unincorporated organisations may apply only through an eligible auspice organisation (see below).

Auspicing

If your group is unincorporated, you may apply through an eligible incorporated organisation (auspisor).

An auspice arrangement is legally binding. Under an auspice arrangement:

- The auspicee delivers the project.
- The auspisor signs the Grant Deed and receives and manages the funds.

An auspisor may support more than one application under this Program and may also apply independently if eligible.

Who cannot apply?

The following are not eligible:

- Australian Government agencies
- Tasmanian Government agencies
- individuals or sole traders
- for-profit businesses
- political parties
- organisations already receiving Tasmanian Government funding for the same activity.

Organisations that do not meet the eligibility criteria are not eligible to apply.

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants.

Visit the Community Grants Page at service.tas.gov.au/community-grants and follow the link to the online application form.

Late applications will not be accepted unless agreed in writing prior to the closing date.

What will I need for my application?

You will complete the online form and respond to questions aligned with the Program objectives and assessment criteria.

You must provide:

- a clear project description
- a project budget
- evidence of public liability insurance
- any required landowner permissions (if applicable).

All information must be accurate and truthful. Providing misleading or incorrect information may result in your application being excluded from consideration.

Can I apply more than once?

You may submit more than one application.

Submitting multiple applications does not increase your chances of funding. Each application is assessed on its own merits.

If you submit more than one application, each will be assessed on its own merits. If more than one application is recommended for funding and there are insufficient funds to support all of them, we may ask you to prioritise your applications.

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

If you are unsure about your eligibility or proposed project, contact us before the closing date.

Email: grants@dpac.tas.gov.au

I'm new to grants — where can I get help?

We encourage applicants to use the [SmartyGrants Help Guide](#) and [FAQs](#) for assistance with preparing and submitting an application.

How will my application be assessed?

Assessment criteria

We assess applications against three criteria.

What we're looking for:	What this means:	Weighting:
Demonstrated need and community benefit	A clear explanation of why the project is needed and how it will strengthen the ongoing operation of the show and benefit the regional community.	40%
Capability, capacity and sustainability	Your organisation's ability to deliver the project, including governance arrangements, financial management and the capacity to manage any ongoing costs.	30%
Value for money	A clear, realistic and reasonable budget supported by appropriate quotes and sufficient detail.	30%

We may contact you to clarify or request additional information during assessment.

Can I use Generative AI tools for my application?

Yes. You may use generative AI tools as one of several resources when preparing your application.

You remain responsible for ensuring that all information in your application is accurate, complete and reflects your organisation and proposed project.

Applications must be supported by evidence where requested. Generic or unverifiable information may be clarified during assessment.

We may contact you to clarify or verify information included in your application.

If successful, your application will form part of the basis for monitoring delivery of the Approved Purpose and outcomes.

What do I need to do while my application is being assessed?

Please ensure your nominated contact is available during the assessment period.

We may contact you by phone or through SmartyGrants for further information. If you do not provide requested information within three business days, your application may be assessed based on the information available.

What happens if I am successful?

We will notify you of the outcome. Please ensure your contact details in SmartyGrants are current.

We will publish your organisation name, project title and funding amount on the DPAC website.

If successful, you must enter into a funding agreement. The agreement will outline:

- funding terms and conditions
- reporting requirements
- your obligations.

You must retain records and evidence of expenditure in accordance with the funding agreement.

For more information for successful grant recipients you can visit our website, [Tools and Resources | Service Tasmania](#).

What if I am offered less than I requested?

Applicants may be offered partial funding.

Please consider this when preparing your budget and clearly show how funds will be used.

What happens if I am not successful?

You will receive an email advising you of the outcome and who to contact for further information.

How can I request a review?

You may request a review if you believe that:

- A person involved in the decision had a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome.
- Your application was adversely affected by incorrect advice provided by DPAC.
- The decision was affected by discrimination on irrelevant grounds, including cultural, religious or linguistic background, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

To request a review, email the Manager, Community Grants and Programs at grants@dpac.tas.gov.au within 28 days of being notified of the decision.

Existing grants and reporting obligations

You may hold more than one DPAC grant at the same time.

However, if you have overdue reports or acquittals under any other DPAC funding agreement, they must be completed before payment can be processed under this Program.

Taxation and financial implications

You must provide your organisation's ABN and indicate whether you are registered for GST.

If registered for GST, you may claim GST via a valid tax invoice unless otherwise stated.

Grant funding may have taxation implications. You should seek independent advice from your accountant, financial adviser or the Australian Taxation Office if required.

Privacy and information handling

Information you provide as part of your application, reporting or acquittal may be used for administrative, reporting or promotional purposes.

Your information is managed in accordance with the:

- *Personal Information Protection Act 2004 (Tas)*
- *Right to Information Act 2009 (Tas)*
- *Archives Act 1983 (Tas)*
- *Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth)*.

Tasmanian State Service employees are also bound by the *State Service Act 2000* and the State Service Principles.

Contact us

The Program is administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet on behalf of the Crown in Right of Tasmania.

Email: grants@dpac.tas.gov.au

Phone: 1800 204 224 (business hours)

Technical support

For assistance with SmartyGrants or SmartyFile:

Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Phone: +613 9320 6888 (8am – 6pm Monday – Friday)