

Loddon Campaspe Regional Drought Resilience Grant



Guidelines and eligibility criteria

LODDON CAMPASPE DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN



Opening date	11 March 2025
Closing Date and time	5pm AEST 13 April 2025
Type of grant opportunity	Open competitive
Enquires	North Central Catchment Management Authority Email: LCDroughtResilience@nccma.vic.gov.au Jacqui Knee, Project Manager Mobile: 0400 054 690



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Introduction

What is the Loddon-Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan?

The Commonwealth and Victorian governments have partnered to support regional areas to ensure they are better prepared to manage and build resilience to future droughts, with an increasing focus on adaption and change. The Commonwealth Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Program's vision is to have farm businesses and rural communities that are prepared for, and capable of managing, drought in pursuit of a prosperous and sustainable future.

This Loddon Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan (referred to as the Plan) seeks to facilitate a cohesive and coordinated approach to building community drought resilience. The Plan aims to build

- economic resilience for an innovative and profitable agricultural sector
- environmental resilience for sustainable and improved functioning of landscapes
- social resilience for resourceful and adaptable communities

The Plan is aimed at supporting not for profit organisations including government agencies, teaching organisations, community development organisations, farmer and Landcare groups.

The Plan for the region can be viewed [here](#).

What is the Regional Drought Resilience Plan Grant?

North Central CMA has received funding to implement the Plan and co-ordinate a devolved grants program to the community to strengthen and build resilience to climate challenges and uncertainties, in this case, drought.

Organisations, farmer groups or local government can apply for funds to deliver projects that will address one of the key actions identified for regional drought resilience. Projects will need to be delivered by November 30, 2025.

Vision for Loddon Campaspe is:

The vision for this Plan is to support the Loddon Campaspe region to maintain productive and healthy communities during times of drought, through preparedness and anticipation of regional changes.

Funding available

The funding has been made available through the Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund and Victorian State Government.

A total of \$300,000 (GST excl) is available to support the actions identifies in the Loddon Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan.

The North Central CMA is responsible for administering and coordinating the grants process.

Grants available

There will be two-tiered grant option on offer

- Small grants up to \$10,000 (GST excl)
- Larger grants up to \$50,000 (GST excl)

Grant period

- Activities must be completed by 30 November 2025.

Priority actions

The actions below have been identified as priority actions to be implemented in 2025.

The grant applications need to address one or more of the actions.

Table 1. Themes and Actions from the Loddon Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan

Theme and Action
<p>Theme 2 People, Community, Wellbeing</p> <p>Outcome: Drought resilience at the individual and community level is strengthened by supporting physical and mental wealth, peer-support and informal support groups, grassroots initiatives, and initiatives and actions by regional organisations and agencies.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>2.1 Support mental health initiatives before, during and after droughts (and other extreme weather events). 2.4 Support opportunities to stay connected at community events, to prevent isolation and maintain motivation.</p>
<p>Theme 3 Empowered Communities</p> <p>Outcome: Communities are empowered to act and are supported where requested. Communities have local and regional leadership and are connected to regional and state networks to ensure a shared responsibility for improved drought resilience.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>3.2 Provide support to local communities, to assist them to co-design programs that build drought resilience, by adopting a place-based approach.</p>
<p>Theme 4 Rural Economy</p> <p>Outcome: The rural economy remains vibrant during droughts and drought impacts are minimised through resilience building before droughts.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>4.3 Support networking of industry, businesses, and the financial sector to focus on drought preparedness. 4.7 Explore opportunities to diversify and modify land use and production systems based on future climates.</p>
<p>Theme 6 Farm Management</p> <p>Outcome: Primary producers are supported to maintain production systems during drought that are environmentally and financially sustainable and resilient.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>6.4 Support youth to pursue careers in agriculture through workshops, career days, meet and greets and on-farm traineeships. 6.9 Support landholders to improve soil health and biomass to build resilience to drought.</p>
<p>Theme 7 Environment and Natural Resources Management</p> <p>Outcome: Best management principles and practices are recognised and adopted by land managers to minimise drought impacts and ensure the natural environment can rebound effectively.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>7.1 In partnership with Traditional Owners, ensure Traditional Owner land management principles are incorporated into best practice land management practices utilised by private and public land managers. 7.2 Support Landcare and Caring for Country practices based on traditional land management approaches. 7.3 Support an interconnected network of diverse habitat types, which will support an ecologically healthy community during drought.</p>

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under this program applicants must satisfy the following conditions.

Applicants must

- Submit an application by the closing date (13 April 2025)
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Have appropriate governance structures and financial management practices, or operate under the auspices of a suitable organisation
- Comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements for any proposed activity
- Be based in and implement their project within the Loddon Campaspe region as defined in the Loddon Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan (refer to Appendix 1)
- Maintain public liability and personal accident insurance to a value appropriate for the project
- Be able to demonstrate compliance with North Central CMA Occupation Health and Safety (OH&S) policies, procedures and measures.

Activities must

- Be informed by actions identified in the Loddon Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan, delivering on one or more of the priority actions as listed in Table 1 above
- Deliver a demonstrated public benefit
- Be completed and reported, with all funds expended, by 30 November 2025
- Explicitly aim to improve drought resilience in the region's agriculture sector and/or the region's supporting communities and supply chains
- Be implemented within or be directly relevant to the Loddon Campaspe Drought Resilience Plan

What cannot be funded:

- Payments direct to farmers, or to provide on-farm infrastructure.
- Capital purchases.

What happens after applications close

Assessment process

The assessment panel will assess your application based on the information received in your application.

The panel may decide to recommend partial funding of some project and support grants.

If you apply for more than one project and one of your projects is funded, preference may then be given to unfunded applicants over your other projects.

Notification of outcome

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. However, applicants who are not granted funding are welcome to ask for feedback on their application.

How will the applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by a panel, made up from the North Central CMA Regional Sustainable Agriculture Steering Committee, DEECA and CMA Executive. The panel will be looking for a range and breadth of projects. This assessment panel will review each project against the selection criteria outlined below.

If your application is successful

If your organisation is successful then you will have four weeks after receipt of the letter of offer, including the funding agreement, to submit your organisation's signed funding agreement, and any other documentation outlined in the letter of offer. If the documentation is not submitted within this timeframe, the funding may be reallocated to other projects.

Successful applicants will receive payment once all paperwork has been completed and submitted. If you have an auspice, they will receive the payment on your behalf.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants or auspice sponsor organisations are required to:

- Deliver work within the Loddon, Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Macedon Shire Council areas.
- Enter into a funding agreement with North Central Catchment Management Authority.
- Be responsible for meeting contractual obligations to deliver the project and submit project reports by 30th November 2025.
- Submit supplier qualification documents with the North Central CMA, which includes current insurance and WorkCover certificates, and OHS policies.
- Acknowledge the North Central CMA, Victorian Government and Federal Government funding in publications and promotions. Logos will be provided.
- Acknowledge the lands of the Traditional Owners in all reporting and communication.
- Confirm that the activity does not include using the funding for political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties.

Reporting requirements

You will need to provide a report on completion of the project using the reporting template provided.

Reporting requirements will include

- how you spent the grant
- what you achieved with the funding
- data that you collected during the project (note - data may be made publicly available)
- what you learnt while completing the project
- how the project will support the organisations into the future

Apply now

Contact the Jacqui Knee, 0400 054 690 or LCDroughtResilience@nccma.vic.gov.au for assistance with completing the application form.

A hard copy can be downloaded from the North Central CMA website.

Appendix 1: project details

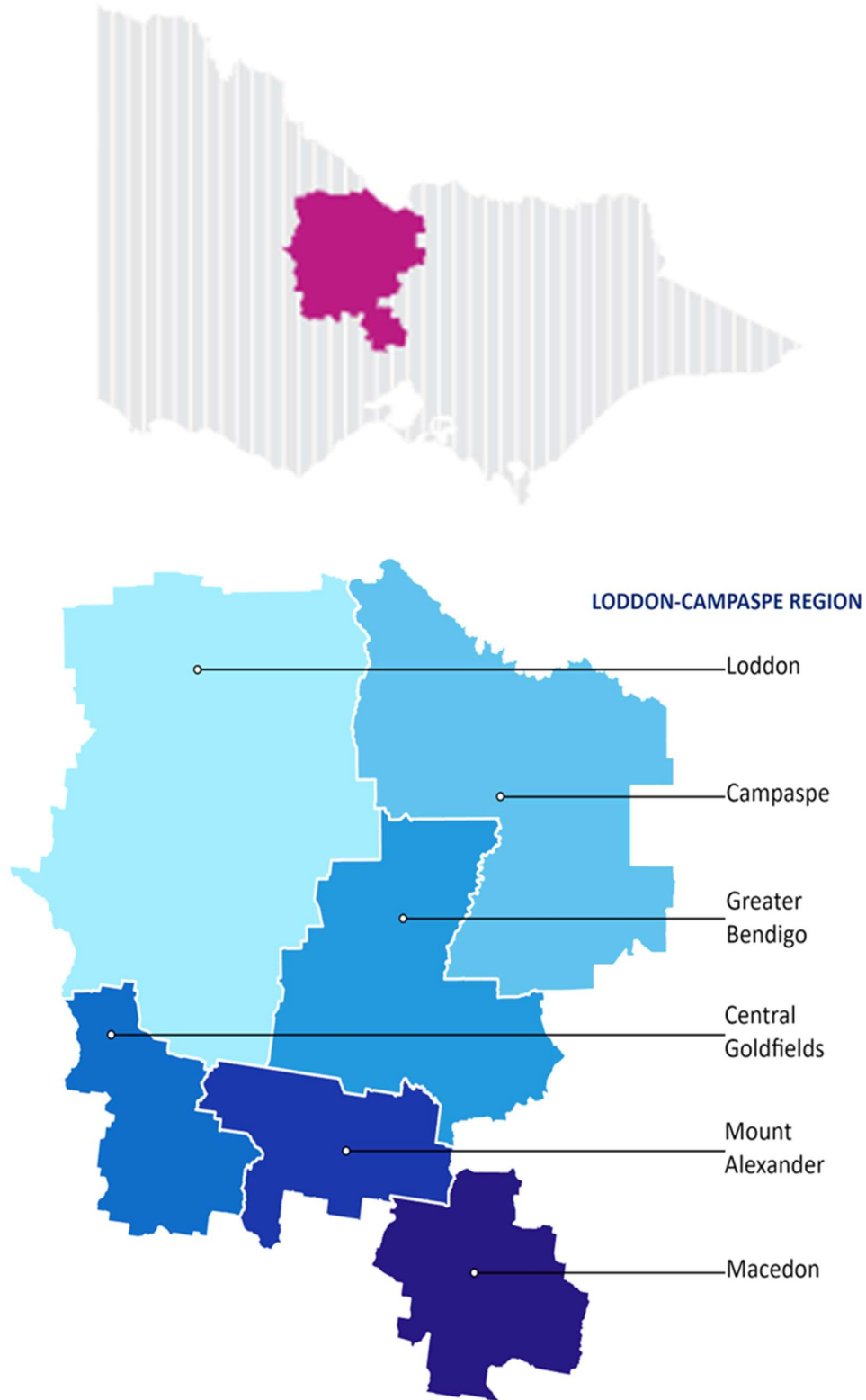
We are keen for this grant program to be available across the community, therefore we are offering a two-tiered grant. The smaller grant requires less detail than the larger grant. The level of this detail is outlined in the table below.

Table 2: Suggested level of detail required for each tier of grant.

Detail	Description	Grant size	
		Up to \$10,000	Up to \$50,000
Title	The title of activity to be delivered		
Location	This should include location/s the project will be delivered	List	Clear description with map
Community engagement	Who in the community will be engaged? Eg. Community, landholders, first nations, stakeholders, agencies involved/affected	List	Describe who and how
Alignment	To one or more of the priority actions listed in Table 1.	List	List which actions this project aligns with and how it will go towards the Plan's outcomes
Objective/s	What will this activity achieve/build/do to build drought resilience in the region?		
Method / Approach with timing of activities	Description of how project will be delivered and timelines.	List project activities and when they will be delivered	Description of project activities and timelines for delivery
Innovation and Best Practice	Does the project introduce new approaches or adhere to proven best practices in drought management?	List innovations and/or best practices	Provide a description of the approaches or best practices
Cost and resources	Portion of the total grant awarded; resources/personnel allocated to deliver.	Budget for project delivery	Evidence of quotes
Deliverer	Who the grant organisation or partner/subcontractor?		
Communication	How, when and to who will you share your projects progress and outcomes?		
Risks	An assessment of potential risks to this activity (list risks and how to mitigate).		
Evaluation	How will you measure success of this project against your project objectives and the Plan?		Including the impact on the region

Appendix 2: Area covered by the plan

The Loddon Campaspe region is defined by six local government areas, Loddon, Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Macedon.



Appendix 3: Assessment criteria for applications

Criteria	Assessment will be based on	Scoring Criteria - Options
Project design (20%)	<p>Project objectives and activities align with at least one or more priority action from the Plan (outlined in Table 1).</p> <p>Clear outline of project activities and when they will be delivered.</p> <p>Assessment of risks and consideration of how to reduce them.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Excellent</p> <p>Very good</p> <p>Good</p> <p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Marginal</p> <p>Weak</p>
Capacity to deliver project (30%)	<p>The resources and expertise to deliver within the timeframe.</p> <p>Track record of your group or network in delivering projects.</p> <p>Gained co-investment or partnered with other organisations or projects.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Excellent</p> <p>Very good</p> <p>Good</p> <p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Marginal</p> <p>Weak</p>
Community engagement (20%)	<p>Extent of engagement with local communities and/or first nations people.</p> <p>Skills and knowledge gained by target audience.</p> <p>Expands the delivery of best practices or new approaches in drought management.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Excellent</p> <p>Very good</p> <p>Good</p> <p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Marginal</p> <p>Weak</p>
Value for money (20%)	<p>The budget demonstrates that the application represents good value for money, including realistic costs and a clear justification for requested budget items.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Excellent</p> <p>Very good</p> <p>Good</p> <p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Marginal</p> <p>Weak</p>
Alignment to existing strategies and programs (10%)	<p>Project aligns with and builds on existing programs or strategy in the region.</p> <p>Alignment with a natural resource management strategy or plan or other statement identifying the need for this project or activity and the community benefit to be delivered by the project.</p>	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Excellent</p> <p>Very good</p> <p>Good</p> <p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Marginal</p> <p>Weak</p>