



Regional Drought Resilience Planning Implementation Grant Program

Grant Guidelines 2025

MALLEE DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN



Opening date:	25 February 2025
Closing date and time:	5:00pm AEST on 12 March 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive
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1. Introduction

1.1 About the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program aims to increase regional resilience to the impacts of drought. The program is co-funded by the Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government.

The Program has supported nine regions in Victoria to prepare place-based, community-led Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDR Plans) under the guidance of Regional Reference Groups. These RDR Plans inform future priorities and specific actions to support agricultural communities and industries to build greater resilience to drought.

The RDR Plan for the Mallee region¹ can be found here: [Mallee Drought Resilience Plan](#)

The vision for the Mallee RDR plan is:

The Mallee region is prepared for future droughts, with reduced drought impacts and improved guidance for regional communities, economies and environments to cope with droughts in a long-term and sustainable manner.

1.2 Program outcomes

The intended outcomes of the Mallee RDR plan are that stakeholders and communities across the Mallee have:

- increased capability to build regional drought resilience;
- increased drought resilience; and
- a pathway to ongoing development of drought resilience.

2. Grant opportunity

Implementation Grants are provided through funding from the Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian State Government.

A total of \$300,000 (GST exclusive) is available in 2025 to support the delivery of actions identified in the Mallee RDR Plan.

Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is responsible for administering and coordinating this grants process.

2.1 Grants available

- Minimum grant amount is \$20,000 (GST exclusive).
- Maximum grant amount is \$50,000 (GST exclusive).

2.2 Grant period

Activities must be completed by 30 November 2025.

¹ The Mallee region is defined by the Mallee Regional Partnership boundary and includes the four Local Government Authorities of Mildura Rural City, Swan Hill Rural City, Gannawarra and Buloke. Refer to Appendix 1.

2.3 Opportunities for funding

Mallee CMA, in collaboration with a regional governance group, has identified a selection of priority actions from the Plan suitable for implementation in 2025.

Grant funding is available for projects which deliver on at least one of the priority actions from Table 1 below. Activities may align with multiple themes or actions.

Table 1. Themes and Actions from the Mallee Drought Resilience Plan

Theme	Priority Action
1. COLLABORATION <i>Regional networks are maintained to ensure open channels of communication and promotion of engagement from a diverse representation of sectors, communities and industries.</i>	1.1 Establish or use existing networks, committees or forums to ensure continuing, broad sector drought resilience building that incorporates Traditional Owner and local knowledge.
2. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING <i>Physical and mental wealth of people and communities is strong and is supported during all phases of drought.</i>	2.1 Support community driven drought resilience initiatives that address the needs of our diverse communities, particularly those initiatives that utilise existing local networks.
3. CULTURE <i>A culture of inclusiveness, collaboration, cooperation, support and equality that builds stronger resilience for people and communities is maintained across the region.</i>	3.3 Recognise and address diversity in communities with respect to drought information, including language, cultural heritage and gender diversity.
4. FARMING <i>Farms are resilient to droughts as a business, as land and soil managers, and as a sector.</i>	4.4 Improve business and land management practices to aid landowners in managing natural resource assets.
5. FINANCE <i>A financial sector that understands the large fluctuations of income and expenses in agricultural businesses and provides support to farms and businesses through all phases of drought.</i>	5.1 Encourage involvement of the local and regional financial sector in drought planning and support of primary producers and other small businesses.
6. RURAL ECONOMY <i>The rural economy can diversify and bounce back from droughts, with direct impacts of droughts on the agricultural sector buffered by the larger regional economy. Tourism remains an important part of regional economies during droughts.</i>	6.2 Promote regional economic diversification as a way to build resilience for local businesses and local economies.
7. SUSTAINABLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES <i>Landscapes remain vibrant and can recover from droughts. Droughts do not permanently damage natural resources, which are shared equitably between users, even when in limited supply.</i>	7.2 Identify and encourage adoption of best management practices to avoid adverse consequences of drought.



3. Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under this grant, applicants must satisfy all of the following criteria:

Applicants must:

- Submit an application by the closing date (12 March 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 Mallee Region as defined in the Mallee Drought Resilience Plan (refer to Appendix 1);
- Maintain public liability and personal accident insurance to a value appropriate for the project; and
- Be able to demonstrate compliance with Mallee CMA Occupation Health and Safety (OH&S) policies, procedures and measures.

Joint applications from two or more eligible organisations are acceptable, provided a lead organisation is nominated to manage the grant and reporting requirements. Each participating organisation must demonstrate its role in delivering the proposed project.

Subcontracting:

- Use of subcontractors will not preclude a project from being eligible, but the applicant must ensure that the entity that signs the subcontract is the entity that will perform that contract. No further subcontracting is permitted.
- The applicant must ensure that the sub-contract includes provisions that allow suspension or termination of the arrangement and to recover money, in the event of non-compliance or non-delivery.

Activities must:

- Be informed by actions identified in the Mallee 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; and
- Be implemented within or be directly relevant to the Mallee Region as defined in the Mallee Drought Resilience Plan (refer to Appendix 1).

Grant funding cannot be used for the following:

- Payments direct to farmers/individuals;
- Capital purchases, or providing on-farm infrastructure;
- Project management costs exceeding 15% of the total funding received;
- Activities that can be readily funded through alternative Government programs;
- Activities that have already received full funding from previous or current Government programs.



Successful activities will:

- Align with and complement existing programs in the region;
- Demonstrate clear, measurable outcomes within the project timeframe;
- Deliver value for money;
- Be scalable in the event partial funding only is available; and
- Not be more readily and appropriately funded through other mechanisms.

4. How to apply

Application forms can be downloaded on the Mallee CMA website: [Grants & Incentives – Mallee CMA](#)

Completed application forms can be emailed to: grants@malleecma.com.au

5. Assessment criteria

The following table describes the information that is required in your application, and how that information will be assessed. Applicants should note that responses should be as clear as possible, as the application can only be assessed based on the information received.

Weighted Criteria	Assessment will be based on:
Project design (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project objectives and contribution to the Mallee RDR plan • Project methodology • Risk management
Capacity to deliver the project (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity (resources/expertise) to deliver within the provided budget/timeframe • Relevant experience
Value for money (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic budget estimates • Expected benefits/outcomes • Any co-investment or leveraged funding • Amount of public benefit
Alignment to existing strategies & programs (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the project aligns with and builds on existing programs in the region • Consideration of previous funding received or alternative funding sources available

6. Grant selection process

An independent evaluation panel consisting of members from the Mallee CMA Board will assess submissions according to the established criteria.

Once selected, activities will be submitted for final approval by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in consultation with the Commonwealth Government.



7. Notification of outcomes

It is expected that applicants will be notified of outcomes within 6-8 weeks of the closing date.

8. Successful grant applications and funding conditions

Successful applicants and sponsor organisations (if an auspice is used) are required to:

- Enter into a funding agreement with Mallee CMA;
- Be responsible for meeting contractual obligations to deliver the project and submit project reports by 30 November 2025;
- Adhere to all relevant legislation including Occupational Health and Safety requirements;
- Register and gain compliance with the Mallee CMA 'Rapid Induct' OH&S management system prior to funding being allocated;
- Obtain any permits required to undertake the project;
- Acknowledge Victorian and Australian Government funding in publications and promotions; and
- Provide an end of project summary report detailing key activities, outcomes, and financial expenditure. This may include the provision of invoices where required.

Payment of grant funds will be provided upfront following the execution of the grant agreement and confirmation that all requirements have been met.

Termination or Repayment of Funds

Grant funding must be spent in accordance with the agreed activities. Where funds are spent for other purposes, or services delivered are deemed unsatisfactory, Mallee CMA may terminate the agreement and/or require repayment of the grant funds.



Appendix 1

The Mallee region is defined by the Mallee Regional Partnership boundary and includes the four Local Government Authorities of Mildura Rural City, Swan Hill Rural City, Gannawarra and Buloke.

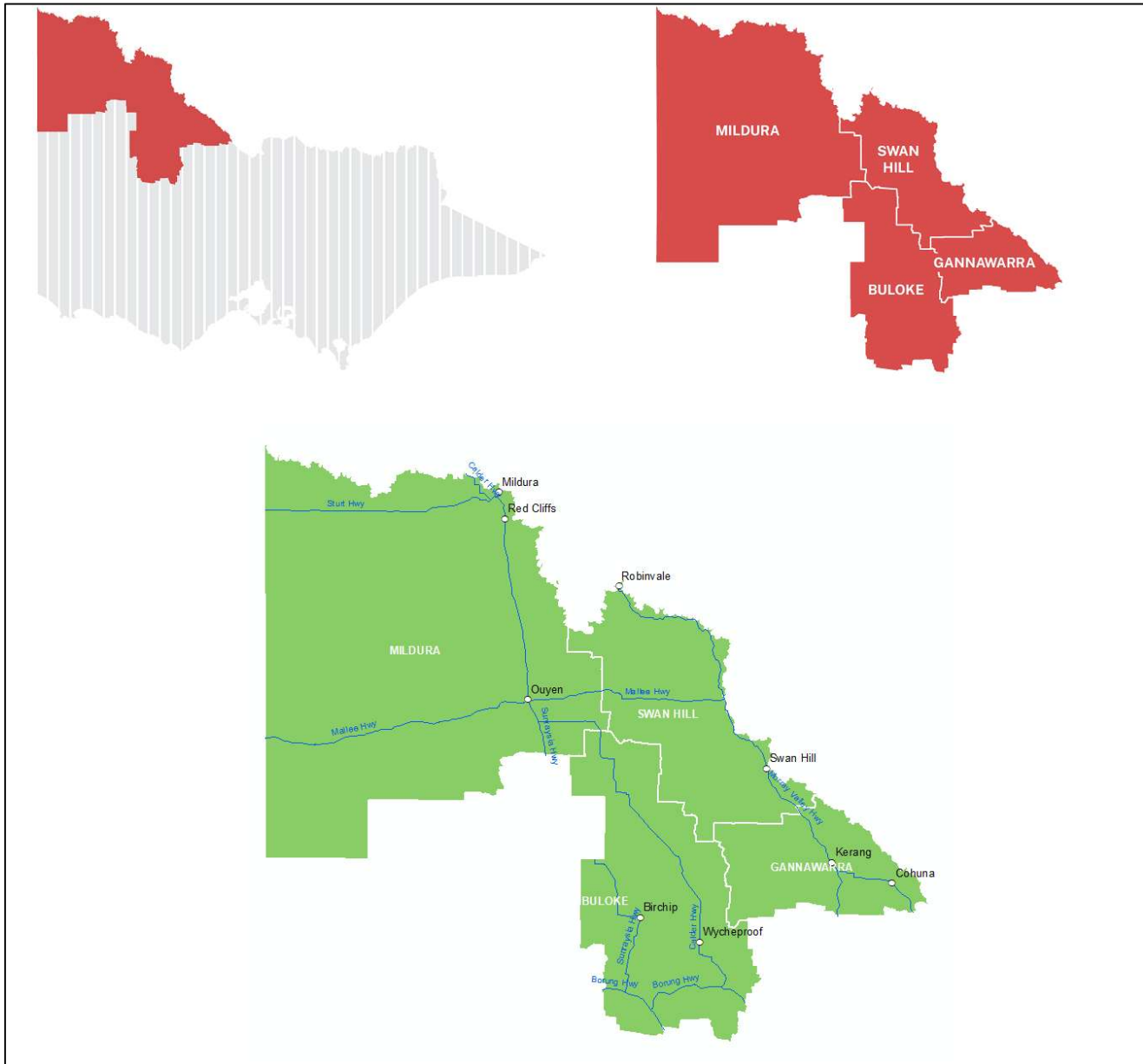


Figure 1. The Mallee Regional Partnership boundary