

Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund

Information Sheet

The Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund (AIJF) is the Victorian Government's commitment to farmers and agribusinesses to strengthen the performance and resilience of the agriculture sector. It is a key component of the government's strategic direction to drive economic growth, create jobs and boost exports.

The \$200 million statewide fund will invest in enabling economic infrastructure and agriculture supply chains to boost productivity, increase exports and reduce costs so our farmers, businesses and industries can stay competitive. Funds will be available up until 30 June 2019.

The Fund will support practical projects and programs that predominantly benefit the agriculture sector. These will include transport, irrigation, ICT and energy projects, as well as skills development programs and market access campaigns that will:

- move agricultural produce more efficiently to market
- improve water security
- improve connectivity with supply chains and access to markets
- give consumers greater confidence in Victorian produce as safe
- increase business level innovation
- enhance business capability to manage volatility and risk, and
- grow jobs in the agriculture sector and along the supply chain.

The Fund has two funding streams – Infrastructure (\$175 million) and Program (\$25 million). Both are designed to reduce costs and strengthen sector resilience.

Infrastructure Stream

This stream focuses on projects and activities typically beyond the farm gate, things which are often beyond the control and influence of farm businesses, but directly affect their capacity to remain competitive. These activities will complement the government's significant investment in supporting on-farm productivity growth.

Within this stream, \$150 million is available for **Major Capital Works** for enabling infrastructure along agriculture supply chains and \$25 million will support the **Local Roads to Market Program** to develop first/last kilometre local roads along key agriculture freight routes.

The Infrastructure Stream can also support proposals that are not ready to implement. Funding is available for:

- studies to investigate the technical and/or economic viability of a Major Capital Works proposal, and
- design of first/last kilometre local road works and the assessment of bridges to determine safe carrying capacity. These projects will be identified by councils following engagement with local agriculture producers, processors and freight handlers.

Program Stream

This stream will build resilience in the agriculture sector through programs to support market access development, enhance the traceability of Victorian produce, build business and risk management capabilities and support agribusiness networks to develop products and markets. These initiatives will be announced over coming months.

See the application guidelines, information sheets and Frequently Asked Questions at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/infrastructure

Call DEDJTR on 136 186 to talk through your AIJF proposal before you draft your application.