



Gone Fishing Day Grant Guidelines 2025



Grant Program Details		
Opening date and time	9am on 12 June 2025	
Closing date and time	5pm on 24 July 2025	
Application outcome date The Department will let applicants know the outcome of their applications by this date.	8 August 2025	
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	By 30 November 2025 (Timeframes is subject to the terms and conditions of an executed funding deed).	
Decision-maker	Program Leader Recreational Fisheries	
NSW Government source agency	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development ("the Department")	
Type of grant opportunity	Open, competitive	
Total Program funding	\$100,000	
Grant amounts	Up to \$2,000	
Enquiries / Getting Support Please use only these details. To maintain the integrity of the grant process, do not contact any other NSW Government staff.	Website	www.dpird.nsw.gov.au
	Phone	02 4424 7429
	Position	Grants Officer
	Email	gofishing.nsw@dpird.nsw.gov.au
	Resources	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/go-fishing-nsw

Purpose and objectives

These guidelines provide essential information for all applicants wishing to apply for Gone Fishing Day grants and fishing packages.

Background

Gone Fishing Day is held each October to promote and celebrate recreational fishing throughout Australia. It doesn't matter if you haven't fished before or if you're the keenest of anglers, Gone Fishing Day is for everyone. The 2025 Gone Fishing Day is scheduled for 19 October.

Recreational fishing clubs and associated organisations are invited to apply for:

- 1) a **fishing package** consisting of rod and reel sets, bags, giveaways and advisory information for participants attending events, or
- 2) a **grant*** of up to \$2,000 to purchase items required to run their own Gone Fishing Day fishing events, such as casting and fishing activities and information sessions.

***Important:** To receive a funding grant, successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding deed with the NSW Government and submit a written report and evidence of grant expenditure following completion of events. Organisations will also need to submit invoices as a condition of receiving grant payments.

Gone Fishing Day events and activities are supported by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Fisheries and the Recreational Fishing Trust.

The program is administered by NSW DPIRD Fisheries.

Objective

Gone Fishing Day fishing packages or grants support fishing clubs and associated organisations to run events to promote and celebrate fishing on or around Gone Fishing Day.

Goals

- Promote recreational fishing as a healthy, outdoors activity for the whole family.
- Educate fishers to fish responsibly and safely.
- Promote the sustainable growth of recreational fishing.
- Boost recreational fishing opportunities.

General instructions

Application process

To apply for grants or fishing packages, you can now apply using the new online application form. See 'How to apply' below for more details.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a fishing package or grant funding, all applicants (i.e. recreational fishing clubs and associated organisations) must meet the following requirements.

All of the following eligibility criteria must be addressed when applying for fishing packages

- ☐ Applicants must be a previously established recreational fishing club or associated organisation.
- ☐ Gone Fishing Day events must be hosted prior to 30 November 2025.
- ☐ Only one application for fishing packages will be accepted per organisation per event.
- ☐ Applications must be completed in full (with sufficient detail to enable a sound assessment),
- ☐ Applications must show clearly how the project team will deliver the project (including adequacy of expertise within the project team).
- ☐ Fishing club/organisation or project manager must have submitted final reports and evidence of project expenditure to DPIRD for all past Gone Fishing Day grants (if relevant).

All of the following eligibility criteria must be addressed when applying for a grant

- ☐ Applicants must be an incorporated recreational fishing club or associated organisation.
- ☐ Gone Fishing Day events must be hosted prior to 30 November 2025.
- ☐ Have an Australian Business Number (ABN). Note: Applicants without an ABN may be able to submit a Statement by supplier form in accordance with the law. However, applicants with an intent to submit a future Statement by supplier form must get approval from DPIRD prior to an application being submitted.
- ☐ You must maintain appropriate insurance to cover any liability you may incur in relation to the Project.
- ☐ Only one application for funding will be accepted per organisation per event.
- ☐ Applications must be completed in full, including the budget section (with sufficient detail to enable a sound assessment).
- ☐ Applications must show clearly how the project team will deliver the project (including adequacy of expertise within the project team).
- ☐ Fishing club/organisation or project manager must have submitted final reports and evidence of project expenditure to DPIRD for all past Gone Fishing Day grants (if applicable).

Assessment criteria

The following assessment criteria apply to all applications.

Assessment criteria to be addressed when applying for fishing packages

- Gone Fishing Day project activities must relate to the promotion of recreational fishing and the overall objective of the Gone Fishing Day program.
- Gone Fishing Day events must not be held on private land or land with no public access (where relevant).
- Events must be inclusive to the public and not exclusive to club/organisation members only.
- Events must be made available free to the public.
- Events must be held within NSW and details of the specific event location must be provided.

Assessment criteria to be addressed when applying for a grant

- Gone Fishing Day project activities must relate to the promotion of recreational fishing and the overall objective of the Gone Fishing Day program.
- Projects must have an accurate, cost-effective budget which shows value for money. Example expense items could include purchase of fishing gear, bait, food and non-alcoholic drinks, participant giveaways and other equipment required to run a local Gone Fishing Day fishing event.
- Gone Fishing Day events must not be held on private land or land with no public access (where relevant).
- Events must be inclusive to the public and not exclusive to club/organisation members only.
- Events must be made available free to the public.
- Events must be held within NSW and details of the specific event location must be provided.
- Project activities must not include commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose.
- Project activities must not include improving club facilities that are only available to organisation/club members.
- Project management expenses or salaries cannot be included in the project budget.
- Individual items purchased must not exceed \$400 in value.
- Total catering expenses must not exceed \$800.
- Grant funding sought must not include expenses for fishing charters, fishing guides or boat hire.
- Grant funding sought must not include accommodation expenses or meal expenses prior to or after the event.

Budget

In-kind contributions

Please ensure all aspects of the project are identified and costed in the budget table. This includes voluntary labour, donations of time or specialist expertise, project management and administration time, donation of plant and equipment to the project, the value of discounted rates given to the project, etc. All of these 'in-kind' contributions to projects should be costed. These contributions, when realistically costed, add value to the project and improve the project's overall value for money.

How to apply

Applicants for the Gone Fishing Day grant program (grants or packages) are required to complete the online application form, which can be accessed via the NSW grant finder webpage [here](#). The 'Apply now' button will re-direct you to the SmartyGrants platform where you will be required to create a log in with a username and password.

When to apply

Applicants must submit their applications by the closing date and time listed in the **Grant Program Details**. Applicants cannot amend applications (including providing additional attachments) after the closing date and time.

The Department retains discretion to extend the closing date and time, and to accept late applications in extenuating circumstances.

Who can assist you?

Assistance can be provided to discuss your event and to ensure applications are consistent with the eligibility and assessment criteria.

Call (02) 4424 7429

Email gofishing.nsw@dpird.nsw.gov.au

Internet <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/go-fishing-nsw>

For assistance with the SmartyGrants platform

For how to register, log in and fill out the forms with SmartyGrants: download the Help Guide for Applicants at <https://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/>

Or Email: service@smartygrants.com.au Phone: (03) 9320 6888.

False & misleading information

Applicants must not include false or misleading information in their applications. If an application contains false or misleading information, the Department may deal with the application as the Department determines in the circumstances and may, for example, determine that the application is ineligible.

After submitting application

Applicants will receive a notification of receipt.

The Department may contact applicants to verify information or seek further information.

Assessment of grant applications

Determining which applications are successful involves these stages:

- Eligibility cull
- Assessment
- Decision-making

Staff from DPIRD will initially assess the applications against the eligibility criteria. Applications that have met the eligibility criteria will move to the assessment stage.

If accepting a fishing package, successful applicants will be required to:

1. Submit written report and photographic evidence of the event upon completion of the project.

If accepting a grant, successful applicants will be required to:

1. Enter into a NSW Government Funding Deed,
2. The Funding Deed will include a milestone payment schedule. No more than \$1600 will be provided upon execution of the Funding Deed. The club/association will need to cover the remaining activity expenses until final payment is made by DPIRD upon submission of final report and evidence of expenses and approval by DPIRD,
3. Submit written report and photographic evidence of the event upon completion of the project as agreed to in the Funding Deed and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding instalments,
4. Submit a final project report and invoices/receipts for project expenses to DPIRD for evaluation by 30 November 2025,
5. Acknowledge the Recreational Fishing Trusts in project publications and signage (where relevant), and
6. If a project is completed and there are unspent funds remaining from the grant allocation, the Department will require the grant recipient to return the unspent funds.

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