

Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program grant funding 2025

Frequently asked questions

Eligibility

For-profit organisations

I own a small Indigenous owned cultural heritage business. Can I apply?

No. Unless your business is a not-for-profit organisation (i.e. not operating for the profit or gain of its owners or individual members) then your business will not be eligible to apply.

Our organisation is the registered Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) for several Traditional Owner groups. We currently receive ranger funding that provides employment and manages Country for one of our member Traditional Owner groups. Can we apply if the funding is to manage the Country of another Traditional Owner group we represent?

Yes, organisations that already receive Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program (QILSRP) or National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) Indigenous Ranger Program funding, can apply for up to five ranger positions. This applies to Traditional Owner groups that are not currently benefiting from or directly involved in the organisation's existing ranger group.

We have a Looking After Country Grant project underway that isn't finished yet. Are we still eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as you do not have an overdue report or acquittal. A report is considered overdue if it is past the date that is outlined in your grant agreement, and you do not have the department's approval to submit it on a revised later date.

Auspices

Can a partner organisation, including those that are not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander bodies, apply on behalf of Traditional Owners?

Yes, Traditional Owners can ask an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, including non-Indigenous bodies, to apply for ranger funding on their behalf. The organisation must show support from the Traditional Owners of the Country where the rangers will work and provide evidence of an agreement with a body representing those Traditional Owners. The assessment panel will expect an explanation of how arrangements ensure Traditional Owners gain greater oversight and management responsibilities of the project over time.

Ranger numbers

Why can organisations like mine, which already receive QILSRP/NIAA Indigenous ranger funding, only apply for three rangers?

There is high demand for Indigenous ranger funding across Queensland, but only a limited number of Traditional Owner groups currently benefit from it. Established groups have an advantage due to

their experience, governance, and partnerships. To ensure fairness and give new groups a chance to access funding, established groups are limited to three rangers.

We employ casual rangers using Indigenous Protected Area and carbon funding. Can we apply for five rangers, or are we limited to three?

Your organisation can apply for up to five rangers. The three-ranger limit only applies to organisations already funded under QILSRP or the NIAA Indigenous Ranger Program.

Can an organisation that currently receives QILSRP or NIAA funding, apply for more than three positions if the work will be in a different area of Country, for example, Sea Country or to set up a women's team?

No, you are limited to three positions. You can only apply for up to five if the application is for Traditional Owner groups not involved in your current ranger program. However, your existing team can still work on Sea Country or include women without needing additional positions.

If my organisation is successful, how many rangers will we be funded for? Are we guaranteed five?

No, funding for five rangers is not guaranteed. The number of positions will depend on factors such as:

- the number of successful applications,
- the management needs for Country, and
- the potential to deliver conservation outcomes.

As a guide, new ranger teams typically receive funding for four to five positions.

Application stages

When will we know if our application is successful?

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by early 2026 and invited to submit a detailed application. Applicants who are not shortlisted will also be informed at this time. Final decisions will be announced by the end of the 2025-26 financial year.

Why is there a two-stage application and assessment process?

The two-stage process helps manage the high number of applications. For example, in a recent round, nearly 60 applications were received, but only 13 were successful.

This approach reduces the work for applicants, ensuring only those with a higher chance of success need to provide extra details and evidence of support.

Funding

Will the government allocate any money in a targeted way? Do all applications have to go through an open, competitive round?

The guidelines state that ranger positions may also be allocated outside of the funding cycle (out-of-session) to be responsive to emerging environmental, cultural and First Nations partnership priorities, and in compliance with the department's grants administration requirements. This means the government can allocate funding to meet its priorities, but all organisations interested in ranger funding should still apply, highlighting their strengths and priorities for hosting a ranger team.

What assets will the QILSRP fund?

The QILSRP budget does not cover major infrastructure such as buildings and land. Applicants need to seek other sources of funding such as the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, or the Queensland Government Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.

For successful applicants, funding for key assets, such as vehicles, will be staggered as ranger groups grow and their needs increase. If your organisation is successful, it is helpful to connect with other established ranger teams to understand what has been most useful to support their work. It is also important to talk with partners to determine what assets and equipment they can contribute.

Late applications

Our board won't meet before the application closing date. Can we submit a late application?

No, all applications must be submitted by the due date to ensure fairness, as the panel will begin assessing applications immediately. If your board cannot meet in time, consider involving members through phone calls or video calls (via Zoom or Teams) to finalise your application. If your organisation is shortlisted, you'll have additional time to consult further and refine your proposal when submitting the detailed application with supporting evidence.

General

What do QILSRP funded ranger teams do?

QILSRP funded ranger teams carry out various activities to manage Country and meet the aspirations of Traditional Owners. These include cultural fire management, weed and feral animal control, protecting cultural sites and community engagement. Rangers help protect Queensland's threatened species, including marine turtles, dugong, migratory shorebirds, and the golden-shouldered parrot. To explore the diverse programs and projects ranger groups undertake to achieve positive outcomes for their land, Sea Country, communities, and culture, visit the QILSRP [Rangers Make a Difference](#) page.

Is the department looking to 'fill in the gaps' on the map for where ranger groups are located to create an even 'regional spread'?

No, the department recognises that each Traditional Owner group or 'nation' has an equal right to seek resources to manage their Country, irrespective of location, tenure, or proximity to another ranger group.

How can I hear about future funding opportunities?

If you'd like to be notified about upcoming funding opportunities, please email landandsea@detsi.qld.gov.au and ask to be added to the mailing list.