

Off-farm Efficiency Program Feasibility Criteria



Criteria	Component	Evidence
1. CASE FOR CHANGE		
1a	Project definition	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequately describes the feasibility project and the intended full project, including consideration of the problem description and project benefits demonstrates how the full project will better prepare the water delivery networks, irrigators and communities for the future.
1b	Alignment to strategy	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequately identifies alignment to strategies – such as the NSW Water Strategy and Regional Water Strategies considers alignment to the NSW Drought Strategy, Regional Drought Resilience Plans, Future Ready Regions and regional economic development strategies.
1c	Regional economic stimulus, socio-economic outcomes and public support	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> defines the expected level of economic stimulus to the region during the feasibility project and full project delivery identifies opportunities and processes for First Nations procurement in feasibility and full project procurement provides evidence of sufficient support where applicable, from directly affected stakeholders adequately details the likely benefits and disbenefits of the full project to customers, landholders and the region considers the ability of the organisation to manage and maintain the asset in the future, including considerations of new costs and how they will be met.
1d	Water savings shared between the environment and water users	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has, or intends to, independently verify water savings describes (where applicable) the sharing of water savings resulting from the project between the environment and water users demonstrates water entitlements are eligible to be transferred to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office demonstrates feasibility studies are sufficient to result in a full proposal that is likely to deliver eligible water entitlements that can be transferred before 30 June 2024, or provide sufficient information to inform a staged approach (where full delivery is unlikely) including the expected water savings and transfer within the program timeframe.

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2. DELIVERABILITY		
2a	Project design	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides adequate information on the planned approach for feasibility studies, and how those activities will sufficiently inform the full project proposal adequately defines how the feasibility study will consider options and their benefits and disbenefits, including a 'do nothing' option.
2b	Project timeframe	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outlines expected start and finish dates or expected timeframe of the feasibility studies defines the likely timeframe required for full project completion and ensures these are sufficient to deliver the project, or defined stages, within the program timeframe.
2c	Project budget	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> verifies the value of the proposed funding for the feasibility project through a rapid cost estimation (administered by Water Infrastructure NSW) represents value for money identifies a suitable level of contingency funding.
2d	Licences and approvals	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequately identifies the licences or approvals that are likely to be required for full project delivery details any potential delivery risks due to licence and approval timeframes (if known) and how this will be addressed.
2e	Risks and opportunities	<p>The proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies risks through the risk register for the feasibility project and considers full project risks details adequate mitigation measures for feasibility project risks identifies feasibility project opportunities and considers full project opportunities.
2f	Capability and capacity to deliver the project	<p>The organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates its ability to successfully develop and deliver the feasibility project within the agreed timeframe and budget provides sufficient information from previous feasibility project delivery as evidence demonstrates its ability to successfully deliver the full project, if approved, by providing evidence of previous delivery projects and outcomes.