



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Business Grants Hub

Sample application form

First Nations Clean Energy Projects: Pilot Grants

This document shows the questions included in the online application form for this grant opportunity. It will help you prepare your responses and the mandatory attachments you need before you apply online.

Instructions

The online form captures the information required by the department to assess and manage your application for services and funding.

The first page of the application page contains the following instructions.

Internet browsers supported by the portal

We recommend that you use the following browsers for optimum functionality:

- On Windows: The latest versions of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge
- On Mac: The latest versions of Safari and Google Chrome

Selecting a program

On the following page you must enter your details and then select the program you are applying for.

Are you eligible to apply?

Before you start your application, you must answer some questions to self-assess whether you are eligible to apply.

Completing your application

The application consists of separate pages, shown in a navigation menu on the left hand side of the portal page. You can navigate between pages using the menu or the buttons at the bottom of each page.

A warning message may appear if you have not completed all of the mandatory questions or if there is an issue with information you have entered. If a question is not mandatory it will be clearly marked – Optional.

Saving your responses

Once you start your application, you can save your changes at any time by using the Save button.

To prevent you losing your work you should save often. The portal will time out after 30 minutes if you do not save. Typing or moving your mouse does not reset the time out.

You must use the Save and Continue button to validate the information on each page. A tick indicates a validated page.

You can modify saved responses up until you submit your application.

Participants

Once you start your application, you may invite others to assist, via the application summary page. To do this:

- select the Application summary link at the top of the page
- select the Participants button
- enter the details.

An email will be sent to the participant inviting them to access the application.

Saving with multiple participants

If more than one participant is working on your application at the same time you cannot save simultaneously. You should coordinate your entries to prevent losing your work.

Submitting your application

You must complete every page of the application before you can submit.

You must also read and agree to the declaration which advises you of your responsibilities.

Check all your answers before you submit your application. After you submit, it will no longer be editable.

Getting help

If you require further assistance completing your application, [contact us](#) by email or web chat or on 13 28 46.

A. Program selection

Before you start your application, we need to first identify what type of entity is applying.

If you are a trustee applying on behalf of a trust we will need details of both the trust and trustee.

Before you start you should have the following details ready if they are applicable to you.

- Australian Business Number (ABN)
or
- Australian Company Number (ACN)
- Indigenous Corporation Number
- Australian Registered Body Number
- Australian Registered Scheme Number
- Incorporated Association Registration
- Co-operative Registration Number
- Charity status
- Not for profit status

A.1. Program selection

You must select from a drop-down menu the program that you are applying for. If you have been provided with an Invitation code, you will be able to enter it here which will select the program for you.

- Field 1 select – First Nations Clean Energy Projects: Pilot Grants
- Field 2 select – First Nations Clean Energy Projects: Pilot Grants

When you have selected the program, the following text will appear.

This grant opportunity will run from 2026-27 to 2027-28.

The grant opportunity was announced as part of the [Australian Government's First Nations Clean Energy Strategy](#). Up to \$10 million is available for this grant opportunity.

The objectives of the program are to:

- support up to 2 First Nations organisations to progress their clean energy projects beyond feasibility towards financial close
- build evidence of the factors that enable increased investment in First Nations clean energy projects
- share First Nations clean energy project development lessons learnt with the sector.

The maximum grant amount is \$10 million and the minimum is \$1 million.

You should read the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) and [sample grant agreements](#) before filling out this application. We recommend you keep the guidelines open as you are completing your application so you can refer to them when providing your responses.

You may submit your application at any time up until 5.00pm AEST on the application closing date. Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.

To prevent you losing your work you should save often. The portal will time out after 30 minutes if you do not save. Typing or moving your mouse does not reset the time out.

If more than one participant is working on your application at the same time you cannot save simultaneously. You should coordinate your entries to prevent losing your work.

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B. Eligibility

We will ask you the following questions to establish your eligibility for the First Nations Clean Energy Projects: Pilot Grants grant opportunity.

Questions marked with an asterisk are mandatory.

Is your organisation a First Nations organisation?*

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Select which type of entity your organisation is.*

- a registered land council representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, or an entity that manages or holds land rights, native title or other Traditional Owner related agreements and settlements, including a land council established under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, noting these organisations may, or are required to, establish separate legal entities for commercial purposes
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)
- a company limited by guarantee
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust established for the benefit of First Nations peoples
- a not-for-profit incorporated association or cooperative
- an incorporated association or cooperative
- none of the above.

You must select one of the eligible options from a drop down menu to proceed to next question.

If you are submitting a joint consortia application, do your grant activity partners meet the eligibility requirements outlined in section 4.1. of the grant opportunity guidelines. *

You must answer yes or not applicable to proceed to the next question.

Can you declare that the grant activity will be delivered as part of a broader clean energy project with an expected capacity greater than 1MW?*

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Will your grant activity and clean energy project be delivered in Australia?*

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

Can you demonstrate that you have authority or support from relevant Traditional Owners to undertake the clean energy project on the land specified in your application?*

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

You are required to provide evidence of authority or support from the relevant Traditional Owners to undertake the clean energy project on the land specified in your application. Please see section 7.1 of the grant opportunity guidelines for further information.

Can you demonstrate that you have a legal right to access the land on which the clean energy project will be undertaken?*

Yes/No

First Nations Clean Energy Projects: Pilot Grants application requirements

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

If you are the land owner or lease holder you must provide evidence that you have a legal right to access the land. If you are not the land owner or lease holder you must provide evidence of permission to access the land.

Does your project meet the definition of a clean energy project stated in the grant opportunity guidelines? *

The clean energy definition used in the grant opportunity guidelines for this program is listed in the Glossary in section 14.

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

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C. Applicant address

C.1. Applicant street address

You must provide your street address.

When you start typing the address in the field you can select the correct one from the drop down list that appears. If it is not there you can enter manually.

C.2. Applicant postal address

You must provide your postal address.

When you start typing the address in the field you can select the correct one from the drop down list that appears. If it is not there you can enter manually.

D. Key contacts

You must provide the details of a primary contact for your application.

The primary contact is the person authorised to act on behalf of the applicant and we send all email correspondence to this person. If you are not the primary contact, we will send an email to this person to invite them to register as a participant in the application. It is important that they register, or our emails will not be received. We recommend you let them know this.

If these details change, inform us as soon as possible so emails can be redirected.

If this application is successful, the primary contact will also need to nominate an authorised signatory to accept an agreement with the Commonwealth. The primary contact will not be able to accept an agreement unless they invite themselves to be the authorised signatory as well.

Primary contact

- Title (optional)
- Given name
- Family name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Relationship to applicant

Authorised signatory

- Title (optional)
- Given name
- Family name
- Phone number
- Email address

E. About your organisation

We collect the following data from all applicants. We use this data to better understand your organisation and to help us develop better policies and programs.

E.1. Latest financial year figures

Values must be that of the entity applying (the ‘applicant’), regardless of whether the entity belongs to a consolidated group for tax purposes.

These fields are mandatory and entering \$0 is acceptable if applicable for your organisation.

All values must be whole numbers. For example:

6.5 months should be presented as 7 months

\$2 million should be presented as \$2,000,000.

- Has your organisation existed for a complete financial year?
- If yes, what was the latest financial year completed?
- If no, enter the number of months completed in the financial year to date.

Provide the following figures for the financial year you have entered above.

- Sales revenue (turnover)

Total revenue from the sale of goods and services, as reported in your organisation’s Business Activity Statement (BAS).

- Export revenue

Total revenue from export sales, as reported in your organisation’s Business Activity Statement (BAS).

- R&D expenditure

Expenditure on research and development, i.e. creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humankind, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.

- Taxable income

Taxable income or loss as per your organisation’s income tax return form.

- Number of employees including working proprietors and salaried directors (headcount)

Number of individuals who are entitled to paid leave (sick and holiday), or generate income from managing your organisation. This should include working proprietors and salaried directors.

- Number of independent contractors (headcount)

Number of individuals engaged by your organisation under a commercial contract (rather than an employment contract) to provide employee-like services on site.

E.2. ANZSIC code

Provide the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification ([ANZSIC](#)) details for your organisation from a drop-down menu:

- your organisation's main revenue earning ANZSIC division.
- your organisation's main revenue earning ANZSIC class.

E.3. Indigenous organisations

Is your organisation Indigenous owned?

An organisation is considered Indigenous owned where at least 51% of the organisation's members or proprietors are Indigenous.

Is your organisation Indigenous controlled?

An organisation is considered Indigenous controlled where at least 51% of the organisation's board or management committee is Indigenous.

F. Project information

On this page you must provide the detailed information about your proposed project. The use of artificial intelligence or other automation in developing application content is permissible, but you are responsible for the content being correct, complete and secure.

If your application is successful, we will publish some grant details on [GrantConnect](#) and other government publications. Published details include:

- *name of your organisation*
- *title of the project*
- *description of the project and its aims*
- *amount of grant funding awarded*
- *Australian Business Number*
- *business location*
- *your organisation's industry sector.*

F.1. Project title and description

Provide a project title.

Your response is limited to 75 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Provide a brief project description for publication.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Ensure your project description focuses on your project's key activities and outcomes. Outline what it is you are going to do and how these activities will support the economic development and self-determination of First Nations peoples through progressing clean energy projects towards financial close, build evidence to support increased investment, and share project development lessons with the sector.

F.2. Detailed project description and key activities

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a detailed description of your project and key activities.

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Describe in detail what your project involves. What activities are involved and how are you going to implement them?

You must also provide a project plan which you should attach later in your application. Refer to section 7.1.1 of the grant opportunity guidelines for the requirements of the project plan.

F.3. Project outcomes

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

What result do you anticipate in undertaking this project? Explain how this will help your organisation, referencing the objectives of the grant opportunity.

F.4. Project duration

Your project must be completed in line with the dates provided in the grant opportunity guidelines.

The start and end dates you enter here will determine the financial years in the project budget.

The project length will be calculated by the start and end dates you enter.

- Estimated project start date
- Estimated project end date
- Estimated project duration (in months)

F.5. Project milestones

Provide measurable milestones you will reach while undertaking your project. You may add up to 10 milestones.

The milestone start and end dates must be within the project start and end dates.

- Milestone title

Your response is limited to 100 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

- Milestone description

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Explain what you plan to achieve at this point in your project. Include details of key activities occurring by this stage.

If your project is successful, we will assess your progress according to agreed measurable milestones.

- Estimated start date
- Estimated end date

F.6. Project location

You must provide the address where your project will be undertaken and the estimated percentage of project value expected to be undertaken at that site.

A project location must be a street address. Do not provide a postal address, institution or building name.

- Project site address
- Estimated percentage of project value expected to be undertaken at site

F.7. Renewable Energy Source

Please select the renewable energy source of your clean energy project:

Hydro

Wave

Tide

Ocean

Wind

Solar

Geothermal – aquifer

Hot dry rock

Energy crops (other than biomass from native forest)

Wood waste

Agricultural waste

Waste from processing of agricultural products

Food waste

Food processing waste

Bagasse

Black liquor

Biomass – based on components of municipal solid waste

Landfill gas

Sewage gas and biomass – based on components of sewage

You must select one or more renewable energy sources. Please see the Glossary in section 14 of the grant opportunity guidelines.

F.8. Lessons learned

Do you commit to sharing First Nations clean energy project development lessons learnt with the sector?*

Yes/No

An objective of the Program is to enable First Nations clean energy project development lessons learnt to be shared with the sector.

G. Project partners

Provide details about all project partners.

For details about joint consortia partners refer to Section 7.2 of the grant opportunity guidelines.

If a project partner is a trustee applying on behalf of a trust we will need details of both the trust and trustee.

You must provide:

- details of the grant activity partner organisation:
 - individual name
 - business name and ABN
 - contact details: telephone number and/or email address
 - evidence of how the partner meets the eligibility criteria in section 4.1.
- an overview of how the grant activity partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the grant activity partner organisation will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities the grant activity partner organisation will undertake, and the resources it will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

Details required in the letter of support are outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines.

H. Project budget

H.1. Eligible expenditure

Enter grant amount sought below. We will add GST to this where applicable.

Provide a summary of your eligible project expenditure over the life of the project.

- *Registered for GST - enter amounts exclusive of GST.*
- *Not registered for GST – enter amounts inclusive of GST.*

In order to achieve the minimum grant amount, your expenditure must be at least \$1 million. We only provide grant funding based on eligible expenditure. Refer to the guidelines for guidance on eligible expenditure.

The financial years displayed are determined by your project start and end dates. You should confirm the project duration before providing your eligible expenditure.

You will also be required to attach a detailed project budget later in the application form. Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for the requirements of the budget.

Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Total
Labour		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Labour on-costs (up to 30% of total eligible labour expenditure)		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Contract including consultants and professional services		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Clean energy project capability development (up to 10% of total eligible expenditure)		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$

Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Total
Stakeholder engagement and communication		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Travel and accommodation		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Administration including permits, fees and regulatory costs (up to 5% of total eligible expenditure)		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	
Independent Audit (up to 1% of total eligible expenditure)		
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	
Other		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Total project expenditure		\$

Details of 'Other' eligible expenditure.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

H.2. Grant amount sought

Enter grant amount sought \$

I. Assessment criteria

We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion and against the indicators listed beneath each criterion. The use of artificial intelligence, automation or other third party in developing your application will not impact assessment outcomes. We will only consider funding applications that score at least 50 per cent against each criterion as these represent best value for money.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide should be commensurate with the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should define, quantify and provide evidence to support your answers.

I.1. Assessment criterion 1 (30 points)

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Alignment with intended program objectives and outcome

You should demonstrate this by outlining:

- how your grant activity contributes to the First Nations clean energy sector, the goals/objectives and actions of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy and aligns with other Australian government priorities
- how your grant activity promotes First Nations leadership, decision-making and participation including:
 - your engagement with First Nations stakeholders and communities (including women and other groups) and how they are involved in the clean energy project e.g. direct participation, capacity building or communication activities
- the organisational structure of your clean energy project and the role of First Nations organisations, including ownership or equity stake and role in decision-making and management of the clean energy project.

You must also attach evidence to support your response later in the application.

I.2. Assessment criterion 2 (40 points)

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Capacity, capability and resources and commercial strategy to deliver the clean energy project

You should demonstrate this by outlining:

- a credible pathway to achieving financial close for the clean energy project and deploying a future clean energy project capable of generating long-term sustainable financial returns, including if commercial funding sources and partnerships are in place to help reach financial close

- your capability, including your clean energy project's access to personnel with the right skills and experience (e.g. clean energy project management, commercial, legal and technical), physical resources and facilities, and intellectual property to deliver the clean energy project; and how you will leverage existing capability and strength of your partners
- your track record of delivering and implementing similar projects, and your capacity and clean energy project risk management plan to manage and deliver the clean energy project over its lifetime with clearly defined development milestones
- your financial capacity including current and future financial contributions to the clean energy project provided by the applicant, clean energy project partners, governments, investors or from other (including commercial) sources (where relevant), and how you will leverage private and/or government investment to achieve value for money.

You must also attach evidence to support your response later in the application.

1.3. Assessment criterion 3 (30 points)

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Impact of grant funding

You should demonstrate this by:

- identifying the key barriers preventing the clean energy project to progress towards financial close
- identifying how the grant activity will help overcome these barriers and enable the clean energy project to progress toward and/or achieve financial close, including:
 - an outline of how you intend to use the grant funding on eligible grant activities to progress your clean energy project, identified against your clean energy project plan delivery milestones
- describing the expected social, economic, and/or environmental benefits of your clean energy project, including to First Nations communities involved in or impacted by your clean energy project, e.g.
 - First Nations workforce development and supply chain opportunities
 - benefits to First Nations women and other First Nations groups such as young people, Elders and people living with disability.

You must also attach evidence to support your response later in the application.

J. Bank account details

J.1. Bank account details

If your application is successful, we will need to set up a payment process to pay your grant. We need your bank account details to do this. If your application is not successful we will not process these details.

We can only pay grant funding to the applicant organisation, who if successful will be party to a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. You must provide bank account details for this organisation.

J.2. Account details

All payments are in AU\$ and must be made into an account with an Australian financial institution.

Account name

BSB

Account number

J.3. Payment contact

We will send the payment remittance advice to this person. All other notifications are sent to the primary contact.

Title (optional)

Given name

Family name

Email address

Phone number

K. Application finalisation

You must answer the following questions and add any supporting documentation required.

K.1. Conflict of interest

Do you have any perceived or existing conflicts of interest to declare?

Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for further information on your conflict of interest responsibilities.

If yes, describe the perceived or existing conflicts of interest.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

If yes, describe how you anticipate managing this conflict.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

K.2. Additional information

Attach additional supporting documentation here. You should only attach documents that we have requested or you have referred to in your application.

The total of all attachments cannot exceed 50 MB.

Individual files must be smaller than 25 MB, and be one of the following types: docx, rtf, pdf, xlsx, csv, jpg, jpeg, png, gif.

Filenames should only include letters or numbers and should be fewer than 40 characters.

Clean energy project plan

Refer to section 7.1.1 of the grant opportunity guidelines for details on project plan requirements. Your project plan must be no more than 20 pages.

Grant activity budget

Must include a detailed cost breakdown and clearly outline how you intend to spend the grant funding on eligible grant activities.

Clean energy project ownership structure

You must describe any governance and partnership arrangements.

Verification of eligibility (where applicable)

You must provide Constitutional documents and/or Articles of Association if you do not have an active state or territory incorporated association registration or ACNC registration at time of application or trust deed (if applicable).

Evidence of permission to access the land

You must provide evidence of permission to access the land on which the clean energy project will be undertaken. If the applicant does not own or lease the land, a letter of endorsement must be provided. This must include a map showing the site of the clean energy project.

Letter of support from Traditional Owners

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You must provide evidence of support from the Traditional Owners of the land on which the clean energy project will be undertaken. A template is available for use on business.gov.au and GrantConnect

Letter of support from board, CEO or equivalent

A template is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect. Where the CEO or equivalent submits the application, we will accept this as evidence of support.

Accountant declaration

A template is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect

K.3. Program feedback

Your responses help us improve the design and delivery of programs. They will not affect the assessment or outcome of this application.

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

Did you read the grant opportunity guidelines?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

If yes, how useful were the guidelines in completing your application?

We welcome any additional feedback on the guidelines.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

How satisfied were you with the process of applying for this grant?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

We welcome any additional feedback on the application process

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

L. Declaration

In order to submit your application you will be required to agree to the following declaration.

L.1. Privacy and confidentiality provisions

I acknowledge that this is an Australian Government program and that the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department) will use the information I provide in accordance with the following:

- [Australian Government Data and Digital Strategy](#)
- [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles](#)
- grant opportunity guidelines
- applicable Australian laws.

Accordingly, I understand that the department may collect, use and share my personal information provided in this application within this department and other government agencies:

- a. for purposes directly related to administering the program, including governance, research and the distribution of funds to successful applicants
- b. to facilitate research, assessment, monitoring and analysis of other programs and activities
- c. for the purposes of due diligence, preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with suspected fraud in grant applications and related processes

unless otherwise prohibited by law.

I understand that where I am successful in obtaining a grant, the financial information that I provide for the purposes of payment will be accessible to departmental staff to enable payments to be made through the department's accounts payable software system.

I understand that information that is deemed 'confidential' in accordance with the grant opportunity guidelines may also be shared for a relevant Commonwealth purpose.

The department will publish information on individual grants in the public domain, including on the department's website, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

L.2. Applicant declaration

I declare that I have read and understood the grant opportunity guidelines, including the grant agreement, privacy, confidentiality and disclosure provisions.

I declare that the proposed project outlined in this application and any associated expenditure has been endorsed by the applicant's board/ management committee or person with authority to commit the applicant to this project.

I declare that the applicant will comply with, and require that its subcontractors and independent contractors comply with, all applicable laws.

I declare that the applicant and any project partners are not listed on the [National Redress Scheme](#) list of institutions, where sexual abuse has occurred, that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme.

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I declare that the applicant is not named by the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency](#) as an organisation that has not complied with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*.

I confirm that the applicant, project partners and associated activities are in compliance with current [Australian Government sanctions](#).

I declare that the information contained in this application together with any statement provided, including those developed using artificial intelligence or other automated process is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, complete and not misleading and that I understand that giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

I acknowledge that I may be requested to provide further clarification or documentation to verify the information supplied in this form and that the department may, during the application process, consult with other government agencies, including state and territory government agencies, about the applicant's claims and may also engage external technical or financial advisors to advise on information provided in the application.

I agree to participate in the periodic evaluation of the services undertaken by the department.

I approve the information in this application being communicated to the department in electronic form.

I understand that the applicant is responsible for ensuring that it has met relevant state or territory legislation obligations related to working with children, and that any person that has direct, unsupervised contact with children as part of a project under this grant opportunity, has undertaken and passed, a working with children check, if required under relevant state or territory legislation. The applicant is also responsible for assessing the suitability of people I engage in this project to ensure children are kept safe.

I acknowledge that if the department is satisfied that any statement made in an application is incorrect, incomplete, false or misleading the department may, at its absolute discretion, take appropriate action. I note such action may include excluding an application from further consideration; withdrawing an offer of funding; using the information contained in the application for a fraud investigation that would be consistent with the Australian Government's Investigations Standards and Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework and/or for a grant under management, terminating a grant agreement between the Commonwealth and the grantee including recovering funds already paid.

I declare that I am authorised to submit this form on behalf of the applicant and acknowledge that this is the equivalent of signing this application.

By checking this box I agree to all of the above declarations and confirm all of the above statements to be true.