Selsmeyer & Co
Agricultural Advisory

hello@selsmeyer.com
selsmeyer.com

Is your group grant-ready?

Most community groups don't lose grants because the idea was bad. They lose them because the paperwork wasn't ready when the round opened, and six weeks isn't long enough to find it.

This is the list I work through before I write a word. Tick off what you can now, while nothing is due. When the right grant turns up, you'll spend your time on the project instead of hunting for a bank statement.

Sort these out once

- [ ] **An ABN in the group's name.** Almost every funder asks for one. It's free through the Australian Business Register.
- [ ] **Incorporated, or someone to auspice you.** If you're not incorporated, a larger organisation can often apply on your behalf. Ask them early, because they'll want to see the project too.
- [ ] **Your DGR status, in writing.** Many foundations only fund groups that can receive tax-deductible gifts. If you can't, don't panic. Plenty of funders don't need it (FRRR's Strengthening Rural Communities program is one), but you need to know which list you're on before you start.
- [ ] **A bank account in the group's name,** with two signatories. Grant money can't go into someone's personal account.
- [ ] **Your current constitution or rules.** The version your members actually adopted, not the draft someone's been working on.
- [ ] **Public liability insurance, and the certificate of currency.** Many funders ask you to upload it with the application.
- [ ] **Last year's accounts.** Your income and expenditure statement, and the current bank balance. If you're holding a big balance, write two sentences now on why you still need the money. Some funders will ask.

Check before you apply for anything

- [ ] **No overdue reports to past funders.** This is the one that quietly locks groups out. Some funders, including FRRR, won't fund you at all while a report to them is overdue.
- [ ] **The project hasn't started yet.** Most grants won't pay for work that's already underway or finished.
- [ ] **Your committee has agreed to apply,** and it's in the minutes. Know who's signing.
- [ ] **A named person who'll run the project,** with the time to do it.

Gather while the round is open

- [ ] **Quotes** for anything you're buying. Funders often want a written quote for larger items.

- [ ] **Letters of support.** Ask the school or council the week the round opens. They always take longer than you think.
- [ ] **Proof of need.** Numbers, photos, a short survey, or an email from the people asking for it. Assessors fund evidence, not enthusiasm.
- [ ] **The close date, in your time zone.** "5pm AEST" is 4:30pm in Adelaide, and it's AEDT for half the year. Aim to submit two days early.

Before you say yes to the money

- [ ] **Who will write the final report** (how the project actually went compared with your application), and when it's due. Put it in the calendar the day the grant is approved.
- [ ] **Keep every receipt,** in one folder, from day one.

You can do all of this yourselves, and plenty of groups do. The list is the easy part.

The hard part isn't the form, either. It's telling your story so an assessor who has never been to your town can see what their money would change. Most applications describe the project. The ones that get funded show the vision, and who's better off because of it.

That's what I bring. I write applications for community groups and farm businesses, starting with what you'd really deliver and why it matters. Most funders won't cover a writer's fee, so mine is fixed and agreed up front. You'll know the cost before you spend a cent, and I'll tell you honestly if a grant isn't worth chasing.

Got a grant in mind, or a project looking for one? Email hello@selsmeyer.com and tell me what you're trying to fund.

Alyx Selsmeyer
Founder, Selsmeyer & Co

General guidance only. Every funder sets its own rules, so always read the guidelines for the grant you're applying for.

© 2026 Selsmeyer & Company, ABN 74 695 747 389