



Department of State and
Regional Development



DUNGOG BUSINESS INVESTMENT FUND

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) and Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) have contributed to the establishment of a \$500,000 fund to encourage new business investment and the creation of jobs in the Dungog Shire.

Objective

The Dungog Business Investment Fund (DBIF) aims to support projects in Dungog that will result in new business investment and job creation and/or services to the expanding population and visitors to the Shire.

Who Can Apply?

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for assistance through the DBIF. These can be accepted from registered businesses, incorporated business/industry groups, incorporated associations located in the Dungog Shire or proposing business investment in the Dungog Shire. Applications can be considered for viable businesses to establish in, expand in or relocate to Dungog. Businesses/organisations applying must hold an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Application Procedure

An application for assistance through the DBIF is a two stage process.

1. Expressions of Interest:

Expressions of interest should be lodged by using the attached form and any relevant supplementary information (which should not exceed 2 pages).

Some or all of the following assessment criteria will be used to assess expressions of interest:

- Level of new investment
- Generation and retention of employment
- Potential for export or import replacement
- Value adding to local resources
- Introduction of innovative practices and/or new technologies
- Clear improvement in the competitiveness of an existing business
- Contribution to economy of Dungog Shire
- Compatibility with the Hunter Region's competitive strengths
- Skills development
- Sustainability of jobs and/or the business.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by no later than **Friday 19 June 2009**. The document must be signed by a legally authorised person for and on behalf of the applicant company or organisation.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted to:

Regional Manager, Hunter & Central Coast
NSW Department of State and Regional Development
Level 3, 251 Wharf Road
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Email: margaret.turner@business.nsw.gov.au

Subject to availability of funds, further round(s) of expressions on interest may be called for.

2. Application and Assessment

Expressions of interest and subsequent applications will be assessed by a committee comprising representatives of Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of State and Regional Development, Hunter Water Corporation and Dungog Shire Council.

After assessment of expressions of interest, suitable projects will be invited to submit a detailed application demonstrating how the proposal meets the program criteria. DSRD will allocate a Business Development Manager to assist with the project application.

Larger projects will be subject to a rigorous Economic Impact Assessment process prior to any funding decisions being made.

Retrospective projects cannot be considered. Any assistance offered will be subject to a binding agreement between the parties which will include project milestones including employment and investment potential.

All applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Committee. There is no automatic entitlement to financial assistance.

Types of Assistance

Assistance will be provided to viable businesses to establish, expand or relocate to Dungog. Assistance would include (but would not be limited to) the following:

- Establishment grant
- Expansion grant
- Business Planning
- Technical consultancies
- Plant and equipment installation costs (including transportation)
- Key Employee Removal costs
- Skills training for employees
- Contribution towards infrastructure
- Offsetting Local Government charges
- Contributions to Payroll and Land Taxes and Stamp Duty

Assistance will be considered for feasibility studies where there can be demonstrated investment and job outcomes are likely. Where a financial contribution is by the proponent, this will greatly enhance the application.

For more information contact:

NSW Department of State and Regional Development, Hunter Office
Tel: 02 4908 7333 or email: margaret.turner@business.nsw.gov.au

DUNGOG BUSINESS INVESTMENT FUND

Expression of Interest

SECTION A - INFORMATION

Company details			
Company Name			
Trading Name			
Business Address			
Postal Address			
Website			
ABN (if applicable)		ACN (if applicable)	

Contact details

Contact		Title/Position	
Telephone No.		Fax No.	
Mobile No.		Email Address	

Structure/ownership

Individual Business <input type="radio"/> Industry Body <input type="radio"/> Business Group <input type="radio"/> Co-operative <input type="radio"/>			
How long has the organisation been operating?		How long under current ownership?	
	years		years

Project description (include nature of business undertaken (or proposed to Undertaken) by the business and what are its major products and/or services)

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Project location/address (if not same as above)

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What is the projected level of new capital investment? \$.....

What is the estimated number of new jobs?

FT PT..... FTEs.....

What skill types will be utilised or developed as a result of the project?

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How will the project contribute to the economy of Dungog?

Will the project result in the introduction of innovative practices and/or new technologies? If so, please give details.

Estimated project budget and project funding

Project Costs (please itemise costs)	Amount (\$)	Project Funding	Provider	Amount (\$)
		Commercial loan 1		
		Commercial loan 2		
		Other sources of funds		
TOTAL		TOTAL		

Please indicate any other resources (eg. In-kind assistance, financial contributions from other organisations) that will be used for the project.

Estimated development timetable (include stages)

Will the project create flow on benefits to other businesses / industry sectors? If so, please describe these benefits.

Have you received or applied for funding for this project from any other similar State or Commonwealth Government program? If so, please provide details.

Declaration

Any personal information provided to the Department is voluntary and protected by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW). The information is essential to determine your eligibility under the Department's business investment programs. The information may be used to send you communications such as newsletters, flyers, and initiations about business-related activities. Please refer to our website www.business.nsw.gov.au for more information on our privacy policy and your rights to access or correct the information.

I have read and acknowledge the above declaration with respect to possible assistance under this program. I certify that the information provided in and supporting this expression of interest is true and correct and that I am legally authorised to sign this application for and on behalf of the applicant company/organisation.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Name _____ **Position** _____