



Australian Government

Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

Business

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FACTSHEET

Regional Jobs and Investment Packages Local infrastructure stream

The Local Infrastructure projects will capitalise on opportunities for growth, deliver long-term economic benefits to regional communities and create jobs. These grants are for local government bodies and agencies and not for profit organisations to invest in new or upgraded infrastructure.

What does it offer?

The Regional Jobs and Investment Packages (RJIP) is a \$220 million investment by the Australian Government to help diversify regional economies, stimulate economic growth and deliver sustainable employment in ten pilot regions (RJIP regions).

In each region, a Local Planning Committee will develop a Local Investment Plan that outlines industry growth sectors, new market opportunities and future workforce needs. Grants will be available in targeted competitive funding rounds to projects that align with the priorities in each region's Local Investment Plan. Grant funding in each region is available across three streams

- Local infrastructure
- Business innovation
- Skills and training.

The Local infrastructure stream grants are expected to

- create new and upgraded infrastructure in regional communities
- create and sustain local jobs
- deliver sustainable economic and broader community benefits across the region.

Grant funding will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs unless you are granted an exceptional circumstances co-funding exemption. You can fund the remaining 50 per cent of your total eligible expenditure through your own contributions or from state and /or local government funding.

In the Local infrastructure stream the minimum grant amount is \$50,000. The maximum grant amount is limited to the available grant funding in your region.

How does it work?

To be eligible to apply your project must

- be located within an eligible RJIP region
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- have at least \$100,000 in eligible expenditure, or have at least \$50,000 in eligible expenditure if you are granted an exceptional circumstances co-funding exemption
- be a capital project or support a future capital project involving the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure
- be ready to commence work within 12 weeks of executing the grant agreement.

You may apply for funding if you are located outside of an RJIP region, however you must demonstrate that your project will directly benefit an RJIP region and aligns with that region's Local Investment Plan.

The program does not fund any projects that have already started. You must not start your project until you have an executed grant agreement in place.

Who can apply?

To be eligible you must

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- and be one of the following entities:
 - a local government agency or body as defined in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*
 - a not for profit organisation that is a legal entity and has been established for at least two years prior to the time of applying.

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply.

Who is not eligible to apply?

You are not eligible to apply if you are

- a for-profit organisation
- a not for profit organisation, established less than two years prior to the time of applying
- an individual, partnership or trust
- a Commonwealth, state or territory government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- a school or hospital
- a higher education provider, or Technical and Further Education (TAFE) body
- a Regional Development Australia committee
- a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

What activities are eligible?

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- purchase of materials
- external labour hire
- construction of new and upgraded infrastructure
- plant and equipment hire, lease or purchase directly related to the project
- external consulting costs directly related to the delivery of the construction
- feasibility study for a future capital project.

We may also approve other activities.

How will my application be assessed?

Grants will be awarded on a competitive merit basis. We will assess your application against the eligibility and merit criteria and all other eligible applications across the three streams within your region.

If eligible we will assess your application against the merit criteria. To be competitive you must score highly against all of the following merit criteria.

- the extent to which your project addresses the Local Investment Plan's investment sectors and strategic priorities
- the level of net economic benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond the project period
- the value for money offered by your project
- your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project.

A Ministerial Panel decides which grants to approve taking into account our recommendations and the availability of grant funds.

What will I need to do if successful?

You will need to sign a grant agreement with the Australian Government.

- The grant agreement requires you to report quarterly on your completed activities.
- We will make quarterly payments based on your achievement of milestones, eligible expenditure incurred and our acceptance of satisfactory progress reports.
- Once you have completed the project you will have three months to submit your final report.

How do I apply?

You should read the [program guidelines](#) before you apply.

You can only apply during the opening period listed for your region and we will publish those dates on [business.gov.au](#). The opening dates will depend on when your region's Local Investment Plan is developed and published.

There is a separate application form for each stream. You can find the application forms via the [region's page](#) on [business.gov.au](#).

To apply you must

- complete the **Local infrastructure stream** online application form on [business.gov.au](#), including submission of all mandatory attachments
- address all eligibility and merit criteria
- submit your application by the advertised closing date.

Where can I find more information?

Visit [business.gov.au](#) or call **13 28 46**.