



## Fact Sheet – Thriving Suburbs Program

- The Australian Government has funded 70 projects, totalling \$317.7 million over three years, from 2024-25 to 2026-27, under the Thriving Suburbs Program, to deliver investment in locally-driven urban, suburban and peri-urban community infrastructure projects across Australia.
- Funding between \$500,000 and \$15 million has been awarded to eligible local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations to deliver the priority community infrastructure projects across Australia.
- Delivery of new community infrastructure programs is through partnership arrangements between the Australian Government and State and Territory governments. Under these arrangements, State and Territory governments are responsible for administering projects, working with approved project proponents to prepare and execute funding agreements, and make payments based on agreed milestones.
- Projects are located in the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs) as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- The Government also opened the \$600 million Growing Regions Program on 5 July 2023 and this program covers all communities outside the GCCSAs. For more information on this program see: [Growing Regions Program | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)
- The Government has redesigned urban and regional investments to ensure best practice transparency and consistency of process, as well as fairer distribution of funds to ensure people can have confidence in the programs.

### Background

- The Thriving Suburbs Program Forecast Funding Opportunity was released on 16 May 2024 to allow eligible applicants time to start preparing applications ahead of the program opening. This was replaced with the approved Program Guidelines on 27 July 2024.
- Applications opened on 27 July 2024 and closed on 2 September 2024 (the former closing date was 26 August 2024).
- All local government areas in Australia were eligible for funding opportunities under the Thriving Suburbs Program or the Growing Regions Program.
- Fairness and transparency in funding administration was demonstrated in the Thriving Suburbs Program through the use of a multi-party Parliamentary panel. The panel recommended projects that contribute to social and community inclusion, are aligned with Government priorities, can be delivered within the required timeframe and are sustainable.
- An external probity advisor, appointed by the department, provided advice to the multi-party Parliamentary panel.
- The Thriving Suburbs Program projects were selected through an open competitive process, including a single stage application process, with funding awarded on a merit basis.
- The department's website provides:
  - Thriving Suburbs Program Guidelines, as published on 27 July 2024;
  - Approved projects that were announced in December 2024.

**The objectives of the program are:**

- constructing or upgrading community infrastructure that fills an identified and immediate gap or unmet need for community infrastructure, particularly for communities that have experienced substantial growth.
- contributing to achieving social outcomes and increased community cohesion, liveability and accessibility for urban, suburban and peri-urban growth areas, fringe areas and inner suburbs.
- strategic alignment with the Australian Government's National Urban Policy to deliver targeted and place-based investment that promotes sustainable growth and enables communities to thrive.

**The intended outcomes of the program are:**

- providing multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion.
- enhancing amenity and liveability, particularly in suburban and peri-urban areas (new and outer suburbs) that are experiencing growth.
- contributing to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities, including in First Nations communities.
- delivering funding where it is needed across a broad geographic spread of urban, suburban and peri-urban areas in Australia.
- delivering diverse project types and a balance of large and small projects.
- supporting and encouraging projects from lesser-resourced project proponents and low rate-based councils.

**Further information**

- This fact sheet is intended to complement the Program Guidelines for this program. The guidelines are the primary source of information for the program.
- For further information on geographic project locations please refer to the guidelines and use the mapping tool available on the program webpage.
- The guidelines, mapping tool and approved projects are available at [Thriving Suburbs Program | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)