




Australian Government
**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
 Regional Development and Communications**

To: The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP (for decision)
 cc: Mr Simon Atkinson, Secretary
 cc: Dr Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary
 cc: Ms Julia Pickworth, First Assistant Secretary

Building Better Regions Fund Round Five – Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines requirements for reporting to the Minister for Finance

Action required by: As soon as practicable

Reason: To advise Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Finance, of Round Five outcomes, as required under the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines.

Recommendations:	
1. That you sign the attached letter to the Minister for Finance providing details of Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Round Five approved projects in compliance with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs) reporting requirements.	
Signed / Not Signed	
 The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP	Date: 25-10-21
Comments:	

Key Points:

1. In your capacity as Chair of the BBRF Round Five Ministerial Panel (Panel) and Delegate for approval of grant expenditure under the BBRF, you are required to comply with the CGRGs.
2. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications’ (the Department) analysis, since Round Five projects were approved and announced, is that of the 298 projects approved for funding, a total of 32 projects are located in Panel member electorates.
3. Sections 4.11(a) and 4.11(b) of the CGRGs require you to advise the Minister for Finance in writing as soon as practicable after any Minister or Parliamentary Secretary (Assistant Minister) approves a project in his/her electorate. Senators are not required by the CGRGs to report on grants that they have decided to award in their own state or territory. Section 4.12 (b) of the CGRGs requires you to advise the Minister for Finance where projects were selected for funding in your own electorate.
4. The Department’s analysis after the project announcement found that of the 298 projects approved for funding, the Panel chose a total of 32 projects in member electorates:
 - Four in your electorate of New England;

- 14 in the electorate of Maranoa held by the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia
 - Five in the electorate of Wannon held by the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
 - Three in the electorate of Lyne held by the Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Regional Health
 - One in the electorate of Page held by the Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister and Assistant Minister for Local Government and
 - Five in the electorate of Forrest held by the Hon Nola Marino MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories.
5. Details of the projects are provided at **Attachment A**, and a letter to the Minister for Finance is provided in compliance with the CGRGs.
 6. Section 4.12(a) of the CGRGs requires you to advise the Minister for Finance where approval for funding was granted for a particular grant which the relevant official has recommended be rejected. No projects were selected by the Panel which were recommended by the Department be rejected.
 - 7.

s 34(3)

Background:

Extracts of CGRG requirements:

Section 4.11 – Ministers may approve grants within their own electorate.

- a) Where a Minister (including Parliamentary Secretary) approves a proposed grant in his/her own electorate, the Minister *must* write to the Finance Minister advising the details.
- b) Where there is correspondence to the relevant grant recipient, a copy of this letter is sufficient, except in the circumstances outlined in paragraph 4.12(b). If there is no correspondence, Ministers *must* write to the Finance Minister advising of the decision as soon as practicable after it is made.
- c) There are two circumstances where grants awarded in a Minister’s own electorate do not need to be reported.
 - i. Senators do not need to report on grants they decide to award in their own state or territory; or
 - ii. Where grants are awarded Australia-wide, state-wide, or across a region on the basis of a formula by a Minister, and any of these grants falls in the relevant Minister’s electorate, the Minister does not need to report to the Finance Minister.

Section 4.12 – Ministers may approve grants that are not recommended by the relevant officials.

- a. Ministers¹ (including Senators) *must* report annually to the Finance Minister on all instances where they have decided to approve a particular grant which the relevant official has recommended be rejected. The report must include a brief statement of reasons (i.e. the basis of the approval for each grant). The report *must* be provided to the Finance Minister by 31 March each year for the preceding calendar year.²

¹ Presiding officers of the Departments of the Parliament are not required to report to the Finance Minister.

² Additional guidance on the form of the report is available from the Finance website at www.finance.gov.au.

- b. If a decision relates to a Minister's own electorate (House of Representatives members only), the Minister *must* also include this information when writing to the Finance Minister in the context of the process outlined in paragraph 4.11.

Name: Meghan Hibbert

Position: Assistant Secretary

Division: Regional Programs Branch, Regional Development, Local Government and Regional Recovery

Ph: 02 6939 4030

Mob: s 47F

Date: 21 October 2021

Contact Officer: s 47E

Section: Grants Hub Engagement - BBRF

Mob: s 47E

Attachments:

A: List of projects approved in Panel member electorates

B: Letter to the Minister for Finance

BBRF Round Five Projects approved in Panel Members electorates

BBRF Ref and Stream	Project Name	Applicant Organisation	Project Location	Electorate	Grant Amount	Grant Type	Commencement date
BRFIPV001161	UPGRADE OF THE LIVERPOOL PLAINS REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY	LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL	QUIPOLLY	New England	\$5,000,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000918	Inverell Regional Livestock Exchange Development Stage 2 Project	INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL	INVERELL	New England	\$631,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV001262	Construction of a new, fit for purpose Crows Nest Mens Shed.	THE CROWS NEST DISTRICT MENS SHED INC	CROWS NEST	Maranoa	\$194,261	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV001147	Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery and Stanthorpe Library Expansion	SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL	STANTHORPE	Maranoa	\$2,000,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000376	LifeFlight Roma Aeromedical Base Upgrade	LIFELIGHT FOUNDATION LTD	Roma	Maranoa	\$1,072,137	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000910	Upgrade of existing Lawn Bowls Green	GRANGEBURN BOWLING CLUB INC	HAMILTON	Wannon	\$60,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000976	Clubhouse Redevelopment	WARRNAMBOOL GOLF CLUB INC	WARRNAMBOOL	Wannon	\$2,000,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000720	New multi-purpose elite sporting facility : Hands Oval, Bunbury	CITY OF BUNBURY	Bunbury	Forrest	\$4,400,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000579	Port Campbell Town Centre Revitalisation Project	CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL	Port Campbell	Wannon	\$5,599,289	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000012	Ancient Lands Discovery Park @ Ngilgi	MARGARET RIVER BUSSELTON TOURISM ASSOCIATION INC	YALLINGUP	Forrest	\$1,350,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021

BRFIPV000166	NEXT STOP ARTS LINE 789	RED ROCK REGIONAL THEATRE AND GALLERY INC	COROROOKE	Wannon	\$362,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000279	Northern Rivers Rail Trail - Bentley to Lismore NSW	LISMORE CITY COUNCIL	South Lismore	Page	\$9,863,615	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000414	Murweh Shire Tourism Precinct Developments - Stage 2	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	Charleville	Maranoa	\$7,940,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000818	Forster Foreshore Redevelopment - Forster Surf Life Saving Club	FORSTER SURF LIFESAVING CLUB INC	Forster	Lyne	\$3,159,491	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000920	Nanango RSL Sub Branch Solar PV Systems Proposal.	RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) NANANGO SUB-BRANCH INC	NANANGO	Maranoa	\$29,935	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000167	Texas Technology Museum	THE TEXAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC	TEXAS	Maranoa	\$30,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000488	Condamine Cods Home Ground Safety and Spectator Viewing Upgrade	CONDAMINE CODS RUGBY INC	Condamine	Maranoa	\$47,332	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV001016	Dalby Show Shed	DALBY & DISTRICT SHOW SOCIETY INC	DALBY	Maranoa	\$63,307	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFIPV000242	Upgrade existing power supply infrastructure	WARWICK KARTING CLUB INC	Warwick	Maranoa	\$20,250	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000523	Building Migration Pathways To Support Regional Growth	WIMMERA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED	STAWELL	Wannon	\$96,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000307	Lost & Found Festival - value add marketing activities	FERGUSON VALLEY MARKETING INC	FERGUSON	Forrest	\$48,180	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000380	New destination event for Clifton	CLIFTON AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCINC	Clifton	Maranoa	\$20,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021

BRFCIV000402	Perth International Jazz Festival - Regional Program	PERTH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL INC.	Busselton	Forrest	\$22,500	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000356	Supply chain mapping strategy	SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL	WARWICK	Maranoa	\$40,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000450	Fine Vines Festival - expansion of marketing and promotions	MARGARET RIVER WINE ASSOCIATION INC	COWARAMUP	Forrest	\$49,480	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000453	Strategic Plan	STANTHORPE & GRANITE BELT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC	STANTHORPE	Maranoa	\$21,329	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000533	Comboyne Gardenista	CREATIVE COMBOYNE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED	Comboyne	Lyne	\$10,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000047	Residential Attraction Strategy Project	SOUTHERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL	WARWICK	Maranoa	\$25,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000632	A Skill Focused Audit for Regional NSW – Understanding Employment Gaps.	THE MCKELL INSTITUTE	ARMIDALE	New England	\$71,839	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000416	Paul Kelly & Friends Concert 2021	DIRRANBANDI PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC	Dirranbandi	Maranoa	\$62,000	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000554	MidCoast NSW Regional Skills Audit	TAREE UNIVERSITIES CAMPUS LTD	Taree	Lyne	\$24,700	Open Competitive	8 October 2021
BRFCIV000639	Creating Capability & Confidence for Community Champions.	GLEN INNES SEVERN COUNCIL	GLEN INNES	New England	\$154,710	Open Competitive	8 October 2021



The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for New England**

Ref: MS21-002233

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Minister for Finance
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister *Simon,*

In my capacity as Chair of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Round Five Ministerial Panel, I am writing to inform you of relevant grant expenditure approvals in line with reporting requirements in the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs).

The Ministerial Panel that I convened for BBRF Round Five, in consultation with Cabinet, approved 298 projects for total funding of \$300 million.

In addition to myself, the Ministerial Panel's membership included:

- The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia;
- The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment;
- Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services and Minister for Women's Safety;
- Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience and Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education;
- Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services and Minister for Sport;
- The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Regional Health;
- The Hon Ben Morton MP, Special Minister of State, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Minister for the Public Service;
- The Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister and Assistant Minister for Local Government; and
- The Hon Nola Marino MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories.

Noting the reporting requirements for BBRF Round Five of the CGRGs, I am able to advise that 32 of the 298 projects chosen by the Ministerial Panel were in member electorates, namely:

- Four in my electorate of New England;
- 14 in the electorate of Maranoa, held by the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia;
- Five in the electorate of Wannon, held by the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment;
- Three in the electorate of Lyne, held by the Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment and Minister for Regional Health;
- One in the electorate of Page, held by the Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister and Assistant Minister for Local Government; and
- Five in the electorate of Forrest, held by the Hon Nola Marino MP, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories.

Further details of the projects in Ministerial Panel member electorates are enclosed. I would also like to correct the previous advice provided to Cabinet where 24 projects were reported to be located in the electorates of Ministerial Panel members s 34(2) . A further assessment by my department found 32 projects to be based in the electorates of Ministerial Panel members.

There were no projects selected by the Ministerial Panel that my department had recommended be rejected. In accordance with the BBRF Round Five program guidelines, each of these projects was assessed by the Business Grants Hub, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, as eligible and value with relevant money.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Barnaby Joyce MP

Encl

CC: The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister