Dispatched to MO
11 DEC 2025

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MS25-002988

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

To: The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (for decision)

Subject: Thriving Suburbs Program Round 2 - Key Design Elements and Growing Regions Alignment

Critical Date: Please action by 23 December 2025 in keeping with proposed Round 2 timeline.

s47C

[redacted]

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

The Hon Catherine King MP Date: 27 Jan 26.

Comments:

Key Points:

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2. The department understands you propose to broadly retain design settings as per Round 1 of Thriving Suburbs, with any changes focussed on improving timeliness and to implement lessons learned from the previous round (MS25-002732 refers). The lessons can be implemented primarily through guideline improvements, administrative arrangements and amending delivery timelines.

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Funding envelope

5. The funding envelope proposed for the next round will inform assumptions, quotations, and cost-benefit analysis for the delivery of the program under different delivery models. The

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quantum of funds provided through the previous round of the Thriving Suburbs Program was $350 million. Growing Regions was funded $600 million over two rounds.

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Consistent design elements across programs

8. Your agreement is also sought on which key design elements are to remain consistent across the complementary Growing Regions Program, as outlined in **Attachment C**.

s47C [redacted]

Peri-urban areas

s47C [redacted]

Next steps:

s47C [redacted]

12. The department will also provide a separate briefing to Minister McBain confirming design parameters to remain consistent between the programs, to inform any proposal for a future round of the Growing Regions Program.

Financial impacts: N/A

s42, s47C [redacted]

Stakeholder Implications:

14. Amending the delivery mechanism for any future round of Thriving Suburbs would have significant implications for key delivery partners and stakeholders, as outlined in **Attachment A**.

Consultation:

9. The Business Grants Hub in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

Media Opportunities: N/A

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Attachments:
Attachment A: Delivery options table
Attachment B: Key Design options
Attachment B: Thriving Suburbs and Growing Regions – Design elements

Cleared By: Dr Jennie Hood
Position: Assistant Secretary
Division: Regional Development and Local Government
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Section: Program Engagement and Development
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared Date: 10 December 2025

Instructions for Ministerial Services: Nil

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

Responsible Adviser: s22(1)(a)(ii)

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, David Mackay, Lisa Rauter, Jennie Hood, s22(1)(a)(ii)

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MS25-002988 Attachment B

Thriving Suburbs – Funding envelope

The proposed funding envelope for any new round of Thriving Suburbs will guide assumptions, cost estimates, and cost-benefit analysis for the delivery of the program under different models. The funding envelope for Thriving Suburbs will also inform the appropriate funding envelope for the next round of the Growing Regions program (a total of $600 million for the previous rounds 1 and 2.

Round 1

The Australian Government committed $350 million over 3 years for the Thriving Suburbs Program. s47C

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Round 1 Thriving Suburbs Program	Total applications	Total funding
Applications received	235	$1.1 billion
Ineligible applications	155	$726 million
Eligible applications	80	$374 million
Suitable and recommended by department	70	$317.7 million
Total projects approved	**70**	**$317.7 million**

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For Growing Regions, Round 1 funded 40 projects for $207 million and Round 2 funded 72 projects for $386 million.

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Dispatched to MO
09 JUN 2026

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MS26-000831

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

To: The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (for decision)

Subject: Prime Minister authority for Urban and Regional Precincts and Partnership Program delivery changes.

Critical Date: Please action ASAP

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

The Hon Catherine King MP Date:

Comments:

Key Points:

1. s34(3)
s34(3) s47C
s47C

b. Extending the end date for the Program to 30 June 2028.

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MS26-000831

2. Amending the program delivery arrangements requires authority from the Prime Minister. A draft letter to the Prime Minister seeking policy authority is at **Attachment A** for your signature.

Key next steps

3. Once the Prime Minister's authority has been received, the department will commence activities to:

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- Work with the Department of finance to agree on potential changes to the program guidelines
- Reappropriate and reprofile program funding.

Financial impacts:

4. Nil.

s42

Stakeholder Implications:

8. Stakeholder implications were detailed in **MS26-000269**, where you agreed to changes to the program parameters.

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Media Opportunities: N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A: Letter to the Prime Minister

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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MS26-000831

Cleared By: Paul Cutting
Position: Assistant Secretary, National Programs Branch
Division: Regional Development, Northern Australia and Local Government
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Section: Program Management and Partnerships
s22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared Date: 9 June 2026

Instructions for Ministerial Services: Nil

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

Responsible Adviser: s22(1)(a)(ii)

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, Jessica Hall, Lisa Rauter, Paul Cutting, s22(1)(a)(ii)

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The Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat

Ref:MS26-000831

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Prime Minister

s34(3)

s34(3) I write to seek your agreement to a change in delivery arrangements for the urban and regional Precincts and Partnership Programs (uPPP and rPPP) that will enable more streamlined delivery of funding to project proponents.

Departmental delivery as a grant

To date, the above programs have been delivered in partnership with States and Territories (states) under a Federation Funding Agreement (FFA) model. s47C

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s42, s47C

Extension of program end date

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s47C I seek your approval to extend the program end date for the uPPP and rPPP programs from 30 June 2027 to 30 June 2028. My department will continue to work with states and funded entities to ensure the timely delivery of their projects as close to 30 June 2027 as possible.

Further administrative steps

Subject to your approval of the above delivery parameters, my department will proceed with the necessary administrative arrangements, s42, s47C

s42, s47C

s42, s47C manage any potential amendment to program guidelines s47C

s47C

s47C Once these matters are settled, I will write to you again to finalise the financial arrangements concerning the two programs.

Decision timeframe

In line with the agreed focus on delivery of the Government's commitments, I seek to finalise the above arrangements for the two programs as soon as practicable. Your decision on this matter on or before 30 June 2026 would assist my department to meet the 3 July 2026 administrative timeframes to amend Schedule 1AB and enable program delivery.

I look forward to your response, at your earliest convenience, to enable the next steps to be implemented.

Yours sincerely

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Catherine King MP

14 / 6 /2026

cc Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance

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