



Australian Government

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

Fact Sheet – Growing Regions Program

- The Government has **committed \$600 million** towards the **Growing Regions Program**.
- The Growing Regions Program is an **open and competitive** program with funding awarded on a **merit basis**.
- Funding will be provided through **two \$300 million rounds – funding for successful projects under Round 1 was announced in May 2024** and Round 2 is expected to open in late 2024.
- The Growing Regions Program has a **two-stage application process: Stage one - Expression of Interest and Stage two - full application**.
- Funding between **\$500,000 and \$15 million** will be awarded to **eligible local governments and incorporated not-for-profit organisations** to deliver **priority** community and economic infrastructure projects.
- **Joint (consortia) applications** are accepted under the program guidelines.
- **Eligible projects** must be located **outside the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs)** as defined by ABS.
- The Government also announced a **\$200 million Thriving Suburbs Program** as part of the 2023-24 Budget and this program will cover all communities **within** the GCCSAs. We expect **all local government areas in Australia to be eligible for funding opportunities under one of these two programs**.
- The Government has redesigned 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 new programs.
- **Fairness and transparency** in funding administration will be demonstrated in the **Growing Regions Program** through the introduction of a **multi-party Parliamentary panel**. The panel will recommend only projects that align with identified regional priorities.
- An **external probity advisor** will also provide advice to a **multi-party Parliamentary panel**.
- Community **stakeholders were consulted** on the **design principles** of the **Growing Regions Program** to ensure the guidelines were robust and best positioned to achieve program intent and outcomes.
- The **guidelines** for the **Growing Regions Program – Round 1** are available on the department's **website**, as well as the **Business Grants Hub** and **GrantConnect websites**.
- **Round 2** of the Growing Regions Program is expected to open in 2024.

The objectives of the program

- Constructing or upgrading community infrastructure that fills an identified need.
- Contributing to achieving a wide range of community socio-economic outcomes.
- Strategic alignment with regional priorities.

The intended outcomes of the program

- Provision of infrastructure which improves equity, supports diverse social inclusion, grows local economies and enhances amenity and liveability
- Investment contributes to the achievement of broader Government priorities such as net zero emissions, gender equity, and/or First Nations priorities.