

Mobile Network Hardening Program Perth Hills Round Grant Opportunity Guidelines

April 2026

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Closing date and time:	5 pm AEST on 10 June 2026
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Administering entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, please contact MNHP@communications.gov.au. Questions should be sent no later than 3 June 2026
Date grant opportunity guidelines released:	29 April 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Targeted Competitive

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1 Mobile Network Hardening Program: Perth Hills Round processes

The Mobile Network Hardening Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts' Outcome 5. It is part of the Australian Government's \$1.1 billion [Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia](#). The department works with stakeholders to plan and design grant programs according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024¹ \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the Guidelines on [GrantConnect](#).² At the same time the Guidelines are released, the Australian Government will invite applications from Eligible Applicants.



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the Application Form and address all of the Eligibility and Assessment Criteria to be considered for a grant. The Application Form includes instructions on how to complete the application. Other information to support your application will be released with these Guidelines.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against the Eligibility Criteria. An Assessment Committee assesses all eligible projects against the Assessment Criteria, including an overall consideration of Value with Relevant Money, and compares the relative merits of projects.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the Decision Maker on the merits of each project, including a merit list of proposed projects for funding.



Grant decisions are made

The Decision Maker decides which projects are successful and will receive grant funding.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application within two weeks of decision.



We enter into a Grant Agreement

We will enter into a Grant Agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportionate to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the Grant Activity as set out in your Grant Agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Mobile Network Hardening Program

We may evaluate specific projects and the Program as a whole. Any evaluation will consider both the information you provide to us and we collect from various sources.

¹ www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/versions

² www.grants.gov.au/

1.1 Introduction

These Guidelines contain information for the Perth Hills Round of the Mobile Network Hardening Program (the Program). You must read these Guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the Perth Hills Round of the Program;
- the Eligibility and Assessment Criteria;
- how grant applications and projects are considered and selected;
- how Grantees are notified and receive grant payments;
- how Grantees will be monitored and evaluated; and
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant opportunity.

This grant opportunity will be administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department).

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#)³. This grant opportunity is categorised as a targeted competitive funding round as it is open to a small number of potential grantees based on the specialised requirements of the grant activity.

We have defined key terms used in these Guidelines in the Glossary at section 14.

2 About the grant program

2.1 Mobile Network Hardening Program Perth Hills Round

The Australian Government is providing \$1.2 million (GST exclusive) for the Perth Hills Round to upgrade battery back-up power and install Automatic Transfer Switches (ATS, defined in Section 5.1 and the Glossary) at up to 23 mobile telecommunications infrastructure sites in the Perth Hills region of Western Australia.

The objective of the Perth Hills Round is to co-fund Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers (MNIPs) to upgrade mobile network telecommunications infrastructure to a minimum of 20 hours of battery back-up power and/or install ATS technology at locations in peri-urban and regional sites in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Armadale, Mundaring, Kalamunda, and Swan, which comprise the Perth Hills (for the purposes of the Program).

These upgrades will strengthen the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure to allow them to operate for longer during Natural Disasters and power outages, and enable the rapid restoration of services during and after an outage.

The intended outcome of the Program is to help prevent, mitigate and manage mobile network outages during and/or after Natural Disasters and power outages to:

- improve the reliability of mobile telecommunications services;
- support critical public safety communications and connectivity; and
- provide access to essential mobile telecommunications services for communities, businesses and emergency organisations.

³ www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text

The Program contributes to the department's Outcome 5: *Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services.*

A Natural Disaster is defined in the Glossary. For the purposes of this Round, a Natural Disaster arises from a Natural Hazard event which can cause both significant damage to property or loss of life, and prolonged outages in mobile telecommunications to an Eligible Site in the Perth Hills (defined at section 5.2).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage with the Western Australian Government and local councils to:

- identify vulnerable sites in the LGAs in the Perth Hills impacted by, or at risk of, a Natural Disaster; and
- discuss the jurisdiction's willingness to provide a financial contribution and/or written endorsement of the project.

The Commonwealth has the power to make, vary or administer the Program under Item 420 of Part 4 of Schedule 1AB to the [Financial Framework \(Supplementary Powers\) Regulations 1997](#) (Cth)⁴.

We administer the Program according to the [CGRPs](#).

2.2 Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia

The Government is committed to increasing connectivity, bridging the digital divide, improving mobile coverage and protecting communities against Natural Disasters. This opportunity is being funded under the *Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia* (Better Connectivity Plan), which is providing more than \$1.1 billion to rural and regional communities. Of this, \$656 million is supporting improved mobile and broadband connectivity, resilience and digital inclusion in regional, remote and peri-urban Australia.

Projects funded under Round 3 of the Program were announced on 18 September 2025, with \$9.8 million (GST exclusive) provided for 303 Resilience Upgrade projects in regional, remote and peri-urban Australia. Rounds 1 and 2 of the Program have provided \$37 million (GST exclusive) in grant funding for more than 1,380 Resilience Upgrade projects in regional and remote Australia, and in First Nations communities.

- A list of projects funded from the Program is available on the department's website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/mnhp.

3 Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Government has announced \$1.2 million (GST exclusive) in 2026-27 and 2027-28 for the Perth Hills Round of the Program.

Grant funding will be available for Battery or ATS Resilience Upgrades at up to 23 mobile towers in the Perth Hills. To maximise the value of the Government's investment, grant funding of 50 per cent of the total capital costs of each Battery Upgrade project and 50 per cent of the total capital costs of each ATS Upgrade project is available. You are required to contribute 50 per cent of the total cost of the Resilience Upgrade to the grant activities.

⁴ www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2015C00191

There is no minimum or maximum funding amount (up to the limit of available funds) for each Resilience Upgrade project under the Program, however funding cannot exceed the reasonable capital expenditure costs of delivering each Resilience Upgrade project.

3.2 Grant period

All Funded Resilience Upgrade projects must be completed by 30 March 2028, or an earlier date specified in your Grant Agreement. Projects will commence from the date on which the Grant Agreement is executed. Any expenditure incurred on the project before your Grant Agreement is executed is not eligible for funding.

Each Resilience Upgrade should be maintained and operated by you (as the funding recipient) for at least 7 years following the date on which the department confirms with you that we accept the upgrade works have been completed (the Operational Period), in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

While the Government encourages the Grantee to continue to provide the Resilience Upgrade into the future, asset ownership and operation beyond the Operational Period is a matter for the Grantee.

3.3 Third party funding co-contributions

To increase the reach of the Program, you are encouraged (but not required) to seek cash and in-kind co-contributions from the Western Australian Government, local councils, local communities and/or other third parties. Interested third parties are also encouraged to contact applicants directly in relation to potential co-contributions.

If a Resilience Upgrade project includes a co-contribution from a third party, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any costs that may arise in relation to that co-contribution. The amount of these contributions must be clearly identified in your application to reduce the risk of both third parties and the Commonwealth funding the same activity. These amounts can be reflected in a reduction in the amount of funding you seek for a proposed Resilience Upgrade project.

You are responsible for forming relationships and negotiating contributions with any relevant parties, and for testing and/or verifying any advice received from these parties.

4 Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible to apply for funding under the Perth Hills Round of the Program, you must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be an MNO or MNIP. For the purposes of the Program:

- an MNO means a company that supplies a public mobile telecommunications service within the meaning of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cth) and holds an apparatus or a spectrum licence (or both) for the supply of public mobile telecommunications services under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (Cth); and
- an MNIP means a company that provides communications infrastructure in Australia that supports the provision of public mobile telecommunications services in regional and remote Australia or the peri-urban fringe of capital and major regional cities and is used by one or more MNOs.

5 What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

The following Resilience Upgrade projects are eligible activities for this Round.

- For an Eligible Site **where there is neither 20 hours of battery back-up nor an ATS**, a proposed Resilience Upgrade project **must** increase the battery back-up power to minimum of 20 hours during outages caused by, or resulting from, a Natural Disaster or power outage **and** install an ATS.
- For an Eligible Site **where an ATS is already installed**, a proposed Resilience Upgrade project **must** increase the battery back-up power to a minimum of 20 hours during outages caused by, or resulting from, a Natural Disaster or power outage.
- For an Eligible Site **where 20 hours of battery back-up is already provided**, a proposed Resilience Upgrade project **must** install an ATS.

For this Round, an ATS is considered to be any unit that facilitates the autonomous transfer between primary (mains) and alternative power sources (including batteries and generators) when the primary source fails. It ensures the availability and reliability of power during outages (refer to Glossary).

For this Round, a battery upgrade can include an upgrade to an existing battery system at a site and/or the use or installation of a supplementary battery back-up system.

For this Round, the minimum 20-hour battery back-up requirement is assessed as being the site's power draw under natural disaster conditions, assuming the continued provision of voice, text messaging and essential data services.

If you provide the expected length of battery back-up reserve as an estimated range between two values, we will use the median value to confirm the minimum 20 hours of battery back-up is being delivered.

Proposed Resilience Upgrade projects must not have commenced construction or be part of participating telecommunications providers' forward build network or upgrade plans for the period commencing from the date the grant opportunity opens (29 April 2026) to 30 March 2028.

5.2 Eligible Sites

A Resilience Upgrade project must be located at an Eligible Site, which is an existing mobile tower site located in the regional and peri-urban areas of the following LGAs⁵:

- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale;
- City of Armadale;
- City of Swan;
- City of Kalamunda; and
- Shire of Mundaring.

'Regional' means areas not classified in the Urban Centres and Localities geographical units by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2021 as 'Major Urban', that is with a population of 100,000 or

⁵ Please refer to the map to identify the parts of the Swan, Kalamunda, Mundaring and Armadale LGAs that fall within the eligible areas of the defined Perth Hills region.

more⁶, and are located outside the peri-urban fringe of the 'Major Urban' boundary of Perth (see Peri-Urban).

'Peri-Urban' means areas in the peri-urban fringe area, which is the corridor located either side of the 'Major Urban' boundary of Perth, as defined for the purposes of the Perth Hills Round of the Program:

- the corridor extends to a distance of two kilometres (2 km) inside the Major Urban boundary, and 15 kilometres (15 km) outside the Major Urban boundary of Perth;
- Major Urban areas are Urban Centres and Localities geographical units classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2021 with a population of 100,000 or more.⁷

To assist applicants, a map highlighting the eligible area is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/mnhp.

5.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you incur on eligible grant activities related to the approved Resilience Upgrade project. This may include purchasing equipment and supplies, project management, and payments to employees or contractors to carry out the capital works.

You must incur the expenditure on your Resilience Upgrade project between the start and end date of your project, defined in the Grant Agreement.

We may exclude a proposed Resilience Upgrade project where funding is for a regular business activity, or an activity that is reasonably expected to be carried out through supply or ongoing management of a mobile telecommunications service.

You will be responsible for any purchase, build or upgrade costs to the physical assets under the Program (see Asset Capital Costs in Glossary) that exceed estimated costs. All operating and maintenance costs related to Resilience Upgrades will be your responsibility.

5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant funding for the following costs:

- work or related costs that do not relate to increasing the battery back-up power reserves to a minimum of 20 hours or installing an ATS at an Eligible Site;
- operation and/or maintenance costs incurred as a result of a Resilience Upgrade project funded through this grant opportunity;
- any work that is a requirement of or under any federal, Western Australian or local government laws (for example, mandatory work required to comply with existing, new or changes to planning requirements);
- business as usual operation and maintenance or remedial work. This includes replacing existing batteries without increasing the back-up power to at least 20 hours, costs associated with disposal of replaced battery units, and general repair or maintenance work to structures;
- relocation or reconstruction of mobile infrastructure which was damaged as part of a Natural Disaster; and

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021, [online] Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3, July 2021 – June 2026. Available at: www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/significant-urban-areas-urban-centres-and-localities-section-state [Accessed 16 October 2024]. Consistent with definitions used for Round 3.

⁷ Ibid.

- any cost for which an Eligible Applicant is already receiving funding from the Commonwealth, has an application for grant funding from another Australian Government program under consideration or which is to be covered by its own contributions or other third-party contributions under a Commonwealth Grant Agreement.

The department will not meet any costs or expenses incurred by you in connection with your application. You must meet your costs and expenses associated with the application and assessment process, and the preparation, negotiation and execution of the Grant Agreement and other documentation.

6 The assessment criteria

You must address all of the assessment criteria in your application for each proposed Resilience Upgrade project. We will assess each proposed Resilience Upgrade project based on the weighting given to each criterion, and using the information and supporting documents provided in your application.

There is no word limit on your application. An assessment scoring matrix is at **Appendix A**.

Each proposed Resilience Upgrade will be assessed in one of three tranches, according to the nature of the proposed project.

Proposed Resilience Upgrade projects will be assessed and ranked relative to other proposals in the same tranche. Priority will be given to proposals in Tranche 1 that upgrade battery back-up to 20 hours **and** install an ATS to ensure that funding is directed to sites with the highest need for resilience upgrades. Projects in Tranche 2 will then be prioritised to ensure locations have access to at least 20 hours of battery back-up.

- Tranche One - Battery and ATS Projects: Projects that upgrade an Eligible Site to provide at least 20 hours of battery back-up and install an ATS.
- Tranche Two - Battery Upgrade Projects: Projects that upgrade an Eligible Site to provide at least 20 hours of battery back-up, where an ATS is already installed.
- Tranche Three - ATS Projects: Projects that install an ATS at an Eligible Site that already has at least 20 hours of battery back-up.

Criterion 1 – Cost per Hour of Battery Life (30 Points)

The cost per hour of battery life for each proposed Resilience Upgrade project will be assessed using the following formula:

$$Score = \frac{\text{Cost to the Commonwealth of the resilience upgrade project}}{\text{Additional hours of battery back-up power}}$$

Up to 30 points will be awarded for this criterion.

Proposed Resilience Upgrade projects will be ranked relative to other proposals by the cost per hour of battery life, from lowest to highest cost. Projects will be grouped into three bands with 50 points awarded for projects ranked in the 80th percentile, 30 points awarded for projects in the 20th to 79th percentile, and 20 points awarded to the projects ranked below the 20th percentile.

For proposed Resilience Upgrades in Tranche Three, which are not adding to an Eligible Site's battery back-up, the following formula will be applied to the existing level of battery back-up against the cost of the ATS.

$$Tranche\ Three\ Score = \frac{\text{Cost to the Commonwealth of the ATS resilience upgrade project}}{\text{Existing hours of battery back-up power}}$$

Criterion 2 – Benefit to the Community (50 Points)

The benefits to the community of each proposed Resilience Upgrade project will be assessed according to the following factors, with up to 50 points available for this criterion:

- Increased resilience in mobile connectivity for the local community, demonstrated by, for example:
 - proximity of the Resilience Upgrade project to community evacuation centres, local emergency services facilities and Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program sites⁸ in the relevant LGAs;
 - the number of premises in the area supported by an Eligible Site that would benefit from the Resilience Upgrade project; and
 - data from Australian Disaster Resilience Index indicating whether the Eligible Site is in an area of low, medium or high disaster resilience.
 - upgrades to sites where more than one MNO receives the benefit of the battery back-up and ATS.
- Vulnerability of the Eligible Site and local community to a Natural Disaster and/power outage, demonstrated by, for example:
 - the isolation of a Resilience Upgrade project, including from infrastructure, populated areas and other mobile tower sites;
 - whether the Eligible Site is located in, or provides telecommunications services for, a national park or tourism site;
 - data from System Average Interruption Duration and System Average Interruption Frequency Indexes that demonstrate the relative frequency and duration of outages;
 - the potential benefits to local Emergency Service Organisations; and
 - impacts on the local economy or social connection.

The department will seek advice from the Western Australian and relevant local governments on the risk, nature and potential impact of Natural Disasters on Eligible Sites. Endorsement of a Resilience Upgrade project from the Western Australia and/or relevant local government will also be considered favourably in the assessment of a project.

Criterion 3 – Capacity, Capability and Resources (20 points)

The capacity, capability and resources of the applicant to deliver each proposed Resilience Upgrade project will be assessed according to the following factors, with up to 20 points awarded for this criterion:

- evidence of sound project planning to deliver, manage, maintain and monitor the project; and
- track record delivering similar solutions and projects under this Program and other regional communications programs.

7 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Guidelines, the Application Form, the list of mandatory and supporting documents to be submitted with your application, and the sample Grant Agreement. These documents can be found on [GrantConnect](#).

⁸ You may view STAND sites using the [Sky Muster Satellite Deployments Viewer](#) available through the department's website, www.infrastructure.gov.au

Any alterations and addenda⁹ will be published on [GrantConnect](#).¹⁰ By registering on GrantConnect, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

To apply you must:

- complete the Application Form in full, including providing all required information for each proposed Resilience Upgrade project and addressing all Eligibility Criteria and Assessment Criteria;
- provide all mandatory documents and any supporting documents (such as those required to demonstrate your claims in the Assessment Criteria);
- provide all figures used for monetary values rounded to the nearest dollar. If rounded figures are not provided, we will round all figures to the nearest dollar prior to commencing the assessment process. The assessment of costs will be based on the rounded figures;
- ensure all electronic files, regardless of transmission method, are provided in an appropriate Microsoft compatible format (PDF files are preferred); and
- submit your application by the closing date listed in Table 1 of Section 7.2.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code 1995](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should immediately advise us of the error and provide the correct information, via email to MNHP@communications.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application, after the closing date.

If we find an error or missing information in your application, we may ask for clarification or additional information. This will only be accepted where the clarification or additional information does not provide you with a material advantage over other applicants in the assessment of eligibility of your application and the assessment of the merit of proposed projects.

Applications must be lodged by email to MNHP@communications.gov.au. Application files included in each email must not exceed a combined size of 10 megabytes. A number of emails can be provided, where needed. The number of emails being provided should be included in the header to assist in verifying receipt of all information (for example, email 1 of 3, email 2 of 3, email 3 of 3).

We will acknowledge receipt of your application by email to the nominated contact person within five business days of receipt. Applicants who lodge an application and do not receive acknowledgement of their application should contact the department. If you need further guidance about the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online or via email, contact us at MNHP@communications.gov.au.

You should keep a copy of your application, including all mandatory and any supporting documents.

7.1 Attachments to the application

You must attach all mandatory and any supporting documentation to the Application Form, consistent with the instructions provided in these Guidelines. We will not consider information included in attachments that we do not request.

⁹ Alterations and addenda include corrections to currently published documents, changes to closing times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents

¹⁰ www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A04868/latest/tex

7.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit your application between the published opening and closing dates. We will only accept a late application in exceptional circumstances, and may not consider any application submitted after the closing date. Without limiting the department’s discretion, exceptional circumstances may include natural disasters or unforeseen and significant technical issues with the Application Form or lodgement systems. You should consider any differences in time zones when submitting your application.

If you believe there are circumstances which will affect the timely submission of your application, you must contact us via email at MNHP@communications.gov.au before the closing date to request an alternative deadline for your application.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Applications Open	29 April 2026
Applications Close	17:00 AEST, 10 June 2026
Assessment of applications	Approximately 2 to 4 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	Up to 6 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	From Quarter 3 of 2026
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	Within 2 weeks of decision
Earliest start date of grant activity	On execution of the Grant Agreement
End date of grant activity or agreement	As included in the Grant Agreement or by 30 March 2028.

7.3 Questions during the application process

All requests for clarification of information included in these Guidelines should be referred to the department by email at MNHP@communications.gov.au. We will respond to emailed questions within three business days. Answers to questions will be posted on [GrantConnect](#).¹¹

8 The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

We will undertake an initial check to ensure each application is complete and that all mandatory documents have been submitted as part of the application.

We will review your application against the eligibility criteria set out in section 4. Only eligible applications will be considered further.

We will review each project in eligible applications against the eligibility criteria set out in section 5. Only eligible projects will be considered for merit.

We will consider each eligible project through a targeted competitive process.

The Assessment Committee (defined in section 8.2 and the Glossary) will assess each Resilience Upgrade project against the Assessment Criteria (Section 6) and against other projects in the relevant tranche. The Assessment Committee will consider your Resilience Upgrade project on its merits, based on:

¹¹ www.grants.gov.au/

- how well it meets the Assessment Criteria;
- how it compares to other proposed Resilience Upgrade projects in the application and other applications, and in the tranche; and
- whether it provides value with relevant money (Section 8.1.1 and defined in the Glossary).

8.1.1 Value with relevant money

The assessment of value with relevant money ensures the grant will add value by achieving Program outcomes that would not occur without the grant. When assessing the extent to which the proposed Resilience Upgrade project represents value with relevant money, the Assessment Committee will have regard to:

- the Government's objectives for the Perth Hills Round of the Program;
- the potential contribution of each eligible Resilience Upgrade project to the intended outcomes and objectives of the Program;
- the distribution of funding for Resilience Upgrade projects across eligible LGAs, both within and across tranches;
- the provision of resilience upgrades to sites that have neither battery back-up power or an ATS;
- feedback from other Australian Government agencies, particularly the National Emergency Management Authority, on the impact on, or risk to, an area of a Natural Disaster;
- the quantum of partner funding for each project, with those eligible and meritorious projects with higher partner funding considered to represent greater value with relevant money; and
- any risks associated with delivery of the project.

Any other value with relevant money considerations taken into account by the Assessment Committee will be documented and form part of the advice to the Decision Maker.

Based on the overall value with relevant money assessment, the Assessment Committee may recommend funding one or more Resilience Upgrade projects which were lower ranked against the Assessment Criteria than other eligible projects, including to ensure projects are distributed across LGAs in the Perth Hills and that only one Resilience Upgrade project is funded at each Eligible Site.

The Assessment Committee may also recommend not funding one or more Resilience Upgrade projects which were highly ranked against the Assessment Criteria, based on the overall value with relevant money. For example, a Resilience Upgrade project in an LGA which is receiving funding for a number of upgrades to ensure a distribution of funding across eligible LGAs.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

A project team with appropriate skills and experience from the department will review each application against the Eligibility Criteria.

An Assessment Committee will assess each project on its merit and compare it to other eligible applications before providing advice on which projects should be awarded a grant. The Assessment Committee will be made up of a chair and panel comprising appropriately skilled officials from the department. Committee members may also be drawn from other relevant Commonwealth agencies, such as the National Emergency Management Agency.

We may ask external experts from the private sector¹² to provide advice on specific questions or issues to inform the assessment process. An expert who is not a Commonwealth Official will be expected to perform their duties in accordance with the [CGRPs](#).

The Assessment Committee may seek additional information about you, your application, project partners, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the [Corporations Act 2001](#)¹³) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth entities. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The Assessment Committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business

Based on the recommendations of the Assessment Committee, the department will provide advice to the Decision Maker on recommended eligible Resilience Upgrade projects to be funded and details of the assessment of each eligible Resilience Upgrade project.

Recommendations to the Decision Maker will be ranked according to the outcomes of the assessment, from highest to lowest ranked in each tranche, and annotated to identify when available funding has been exhausted.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The Decision Maker is the Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport.

The Decision Maker decides which grants to approve, taking into account the recommendations of the Assessment Committee, grant funds available for the Round and distribution of funding across LGAs.

In making their decision, the Decision Maker may seek further information from the Assessment Committee.

The Decision Maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- approval of proposed Resilience Upgrade projects for funding;
- allocation of funding between LGAs; and
- the grant funding amount to be awarded.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant. An applicant who is dissatisfied with the outcome may contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman as set out in section 13.1.

9 Notification of application outcomes

Following a decision by the Decision Maker, we will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are not successful in obtaining a grant, you can submit a new application for the same Resilience Upgrade project (or a similar project) in any future grant opportunities under the Program. You should include new or more information in any new application to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

¹² Experts will be selected based on the nature of the question or issue on which advice is being sought, such as organisations with technical or probity expertise.

¹³ www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00818/latest/text

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful in obtaining a grant, you may ask for feedback within 28 days of being advised of the outcome. We will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your application or give you written feedback within one month of your request.

Please email MNHP@communications.gov.au to request feedback on your application.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth. Each Grant Agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed.

Each Grant Agreement will set out your obligations and service terms for each Funded Resilience Upgrade project.

If you enter into an agreement under the Program, you cannot receive other grant funding for the agreed Resilience Upgrade projects from another Commonwealth grants program or funding source.

A sample Grant Agreement will be available from GrantConnect. You must either:

- confirm your compliance with the sample Grant Agreement at the time of submitting your application; or
- request that a Previous Grant Agreement be used as the basis for a new Grant Agreement for the Perth Hills Round of the Program.

When confirming your compliance with the sample Grant Agreement, you may request changes to the terms of sample Grant Agreement for the department's consideration. The proposed changes and reasons for the changes must be provided with your application. The Department is not required to agree the proposed changes.

A Previous Grant Agreement is a Grant Agreement executed with the Commonwealth in Round 1, Round 2 or Round 3 of the Program. The department may agree to a request to use a Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for your Perth Hills Round Grant Agreement.

Where we agree to use a Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for your Perth Hills Grant Agreement, we will provide you with details of the clauses from your Previous Grant Agreement that we consider need to be amended to reflect the requirements of the Perth Hills Round prior to the commencement of negotiations. These requirements may be drawn from the sample Grant Agreement provided on GrantConnect. You may also identify any terms in your Previous Grant Agreement which you consider should be adapted for the Perth Hills Round Grant Agreement, for the department to consider.

We must execute a Grant Agreement with you before we can make any payments. You should not start any activities relating to a Funded Resilience Upgrade project until a Grant Agreement has been executed. Starting your projects before you have an executed Grant Agreement is at your own risk.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the Grant Agreement.

10.2 How we pay the grant

Payments will be made as set out in the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement will state:

- the maximum grant amount to be paid;
- the payment milestones and timeframes for the grant funding;
- the proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage);

- the process for reconciling actual costs against estimated costs, including in relation to balancing cost overspends and underspends;
- any financial contributions you must make;
- any in-kind contributions; and
- any financial contribution provided by a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. You must meet any additional costs you may incur.

We will make a mobilisation payment equal to 60 per cent of the approved grant funding amount on execution of the Grant Agreement, and a payment of the remaining 40 per cent of the approved grant funding amount on completion of all of Resilience Upgrade projects funded from the Perth Hills Round. We will pay this amount when you submit a satisfactory final report demonstrating you have completed all required contractual obligations.

10.3 Grants payments and GST

Payments will be GST inclusive, as set out in the Grant Agreement. If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax](#) (GST), we will add GST to your grant payment.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. The department recommends that Grantees seek independent professional advice on their taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. The department does not provide advice on an applicant's particular taxation circumstances.

11 Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#)¹⁴.

12 How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity. You must also inform the department of any changes to your:

- name;
- addresses;
- nominated contact details; or
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the Grant Agreement, you must advise us immediately.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the Grant Agreement. The department may also remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed milestones and outcomes;
- contributions of other parties, where relevant;
- expenditure of the grant; and

¹⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

- operation of the Funded Resilience Upgrade over the Operational Period.

The amount of detail in your reports should be commensurate with the size, complexity and amount of the grant.

We will monitor progress by assessing the reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of reports. Occasionally, we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments. This may occur, for example, when there are unresolved discrepancies, insufficient documentation to evidence claims, or disagreement between the Grantee and the department about key matters, such as progress or expenditure.

When you complete the grant activity, you must submit a final report. Final reports must:

- identify if, when and how objectives have been achieved;
- include the agreed evidence of expenditure and completion of the activity as specified in the Grant Agreement;
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred; and
- be submitted in the timeframe and format specified in the Grant Agreement.

The department will only make the final grant payment after we have received, and confirmed acceptance of, a satisfactory final report.

12.3 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect the rollout of your Funded Resilience Upgrade project. In these circumstances, and in discussion with the department, you can request a variation to your Grant Agreement. Sites can only be varied where they deliver benefits to the same communities which would have benefited from the original project. Applicants can request a variation by email notice to the department with reasons for the variation and steps that could be taken to deliver the Funded Resilience Upgrade project.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the Grant Agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.4 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.5 Evaluation

We will evaluate the Program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved.

We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information, for up to one year after finalisation of your Grant Agreement to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the Program was in achieving its outcomes.

12.6 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

‘This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.’

13 Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, is consistent with the CGRPs and incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

These grant opportunity guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the department. When this happens, we will publish the addendum on [GrantConnect](#)¹⁵. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these grant opportunity guidelines.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#)¹⁶, noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered 'contracted service providers' [see [NACC fact sheets](#)¹⁷].

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The Department's Client Service Charter applies to complaints about this grant opportunity, available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/about-us/corporate-reporting/client-service-charter. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this Grant Opportunity should be sent to MNHP@communications.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)¹⁸. The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if department's staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel, including sub-contractors have a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer;
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently; or
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department in writing immediately.

¹⁵ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

¹⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2022A00088/latest/text>

¹⁷ <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>

¹⁸ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#)¹⁹ of the [Public Service Act 1999](#)²⁰ and section 29 (duty to disclose interests) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#)²¹ and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#)²². This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect;
- why we collect your personal information; and
- who we give your personal information to.

'Personal information' means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:

- (a) whether the information or opinion is true or not and
- (b) whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption under the Australian Privacy Principles applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare that you will comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and that you will impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

¹⁹ <https://www.apsc.gov.au/working-aps/integrity/integrity-resources/code-of-conduct>

²⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00538/latest/versions>

²¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text>

²² <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential;
2. the information is commercially sensitive; and
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the Assessment Committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively, including for an integrity purpose;
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities;
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery;
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations;
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman, Privacy Commissioner or National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, or staff of their agencies;
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary; or
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#)²³ (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications,
Sport and the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: FOI@infrastructure.gov.au

²³ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A02562/latest/versions>

14 Glossary

Term	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
Accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 ²⁴ (PGPA Act).
Administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
AEDT	Australian Eastern Daylight Time
AEST	Australian Eastern Standard Time
Application Form	The Application Form mentioned in section 7 of these Guidelines.
Assessment Committee	A committee established by the Department to assess applications, comprising appropriately skilled officials from the department and, potentially, other relevant Commonwealth agencies such as the National Emergency Management Agency.
Assessment Criteria	The specified principles or standards against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive Grant Opportunity, to determine application rankings.
Asset Capital Costs (CAPEX)	The costs to purchase, build or upgrade physical assets under the Program.
Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS)	For the purposes of the Round, an ATS is considered to be any unit that facilitates the autonomous transfer between primary (mains) and alternative power sources (including batteries and generators) to ensure the availability and reliability of power during outages.
Commencement date	The expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth Entity	A Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. Defined in subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)	Establishes the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulates the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.

²⁴ www.legislation.gov.au/C2013A00123/latest/text

Term	Definition
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
Decision Maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant, as set out in section 8. For the Perth Hills Round of the Program, this is the Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport.
Department	The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.
Eligible Applicant	The meaning given in section 4.1 of these Guidelines.
Eligibility Criteria	The mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant as set out at section 4 of these Guidelines.
Eligible Site	The meaning given in section 5.2 of these Guidelines.
Emergency Service Organisation	A local Rural Fire Service or other state or territory agency with appropriate expertise to provide confirmation that a location is impacted by, or at risk of, Natural Disasters.
FOI	Freedom of Information, as set out in the Freedom of Information Act 1982 .
Funded Resilience Upgrade	A proposed Resilience Upgrade project selected for funding under the Perth Hills Round of the Program.
Grant	<p>For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <p>13.1 under which relevant money²⁵ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund²⁶ (CRF) money²⁷ is to be paid to a Grantee other than the Commonwealth; and</p> <p>13.2 which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the Grantee to achieve its objectives.</p>
Grant Activity/Activities	Refers to the project for which the Grantee is receiving funding and required to undertake.
Grant Agreement	The agreement which sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and the Grantee, and sets out the details of the grant and responsibilities in relation to the grant.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs .

²⁵ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

²⁶ www.finance.gov.au/about-us/glossary/pgpa/term-consolidated-revenue-fund-crf

²⁷ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money

Term	Definition
Grant Opportunity	The specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential Grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
Grantee	The individual or organisation which has been selected to receive a grant for a Funded Resilience Upgrade project.
GST	Goods and Service Tax
Guidelines	These Grant Opportunity Guidelines for Perth Hills Round of the Mobile Network Hardening Program.
Macro-cell	The widest range of cell sizes used in a mobile phone network served by a mobile base station, often used in rural areas and along highways. Macrocells generally provide larger coverage than small cell base stations or microcells, with a typical power output of tens of watts.
Major Urban	Areas with a population of 100,000 or more as classified in the Urban Centres and Localities geographical units by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2021.
Micro/Small Cell	A 'small cell' in a mobile phone network, with a typical range less than two kilometres. Often used to add network capacity in areas of dense population or very remote locations, utilising power control to limit coverage area. These are also known as a microcell.
MNO	Mobile Network Operator as described in section 4.1.
MNIP	Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider as described in section 4.1.
Mobile Telecommunications Service	A mobile telecommunications service is defined in subsection 32(1) of the Telecommunications Act 1997 . This definition does not include WiFi or internet calling capabilities which may be present on an end-user's handheld device.
Natural Disaster	<p>A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts (National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework). As predicated by a Natural Hazard.</p> <p>Per section 2 of these Guidelines, this includes naturally occurring events that can cause prolonged outages to an Eligible Site.</p>

Term	Definition
Natural Hazard	A natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. For example, geological hazards, such as landslides and earthquakes, and extreme weather, and climate-driven hazards, such as east coast lows, floods, bushfires and cyclones (National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework).
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The Commission operates under the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 .
Operational Period	The length of time that a Grantee is required to maintain and operated a site that has been funded for a Resilience Upgrade under the Program (section 3.2).
Peri-Urban	Areas in the peri-urban fringe area, which is the corridor located either side of the 'Major Urban' boundary. The corridor extends to a distance of two kilometres (2 km) inside the Major Urban boundary, and 15 kilometres (15 km) outside the Major Urban boundary.
Program	The Mobile Network Hardening Program.
Regional	'Regional' means areas not classified in the Urban Centres and Localities geographical units by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2021 as 'Major Urban', that is with a population of 100,000 or more, ²⁸ and are located outside the peri-urban fringe of the 'Major Urban' cities (see Peri-Urban).
Resilience Upgrade	An upgrade to an Existing Site described in section 5.2.
Selection Criteria	Comprises the Eligibility Criteria and Assessment Criteria.
Selection Process	The method used to select potential potential projects for funding. This process may involve comparative assessment of projects or the assessment of projects against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria. Described at section 8 of these Guidelines.

²⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021, [online] Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3, July 2021 – June 2026. Available at: www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/significant-urban-areas-urban-centres-and-localities-section-state [Accessed 16 October 2024]

Term	Definition
Value with Relevant Money	<p>‘Value with relevant money is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, the Assessment Committee should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.
We/us	The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts and/or Commonwealth Officials administering the Program

Appendix A. Assessment Matrix

Criterion 1 – 30 Points	
Relative Ranking by lowest Commonwealth cost per hour of battery life	Score
80 th percentile of proposed Resilience Upgrade projects	30
20 th -79 th percentile of proposed Resilience Upgrade projects	20
Proposed Resilience Upgrade Projects below the 20 th percentile	10
Criterion 2 – 50 Points	
Criterion 2- Benefits for Community	Score
<p>The applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates a strong understanding of the criterion and its requirements; ▪ Demonstrates, to a high degree, how the Project satisfies the criterion; and ▪ Provides detailed evidence to substantiate all claims with endorsement from a relevant and independent third party. 	30-50
<p>The applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates an understanding of the criterion and its requirements; ▪ Adequately demonstrates how the Project satisfies the criterion; and ▪ Provides adequate evidence to substantiate claims or provides endorsement from a relevant and independent third party. 	10-29
<p>The applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrates a minimal understanding of the criterion and its requirements; ▪ Demonstrates how the Project satisfies the criterion to a limited extent; and, ▪ Provides minimal evidence to substantiate some claims with no endorsement from a relevant and independent third party. 	0-9
Criterion 3 – 20 Points	
Capacity, Capability and Resources	Score
<p>The applicant demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A strong understanding of the criterion and its requirements; ▪ Evidence to support the applicant’s ability to deliver the project; and ▪ Evidence of additional funding provided by the applicant or a third-party co-contribution. 	11-20
<p>The applicant demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A minimal understanding of the criterion and its requirements; ▪ Minimal evidence to support the applicant’s ability to deliver the project; and ▪ No additional funding provided by the applicant or a third-party co-contribution. 	0-10