

Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program

Opening date:	1 September 2025
Closing date and time:	5:00pm (local time) on 1 March 2026* *Note: All applications must be received by 5:00pm (local time) on 1 December 2025 unless an extension has been granted in accordance with these guidelines
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact: Email: MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au Phone: 1800 044 938
Date guidelines released:	1 September 2025
Type of funding opportunity:	Closed non-competitive

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1 Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program processes

The Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

The program contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, Sport and the Arts' (the department) Outcome 3 and is designed according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).



The funding opportunity opens

We publish the program guidelines on [GrantConnect](#) and our website.



We invite you to apply

We invite you via email to apply for funding. Only organisations nominated by the Australian Government (or their project sponsor, where applicable) can apply for funding.



You complete and submit a funding application

Your application must address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria.



We assess all funding applications

We assess the applications against the eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. We then assess eligible applications on merit against the assessment criteria.



We make funding recommendations

We make funding recommendations to the Decision Maker on each application.



Funding decisions are made

The Decision Maker decides which applications are successful. We advise you of the outcome of your application.



Funding agreements are executed

If you are successful, you will enter into a funding agreement. No payments can be made to you before a funding agreement has been executed.



You deliver your approved project

You deliver the project as set out in your funding agreement. Your funding agreement will specify the terms and conditions of your funding approval and your reporting requirements.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program (the program). The program will deliver the Australian Government's community infrastructure commitments from the 2025 Federal election and from the 2025-26 Budget and Pre-Election Fiscal Outlook. The program will run over 4 years from 2025-26.

This is a non-competitive program. Only projects identified by the Australian Government will be invited to apply for funding. We will contact you if you are eligible to apply.

You should not assume that an invitation to apply means that funding approval is guaranteed. Your application will be subject to a merit assessment as outlined in these guidelines. Any expenditure you incur on your project prior to the execution of a funding agreement is at your own risk.

You **must** read these guidelines before filling out an application.

These guidelines set out information on:

- the purpose of the program;
- the eligibility and assessment criteria;
- how to apply for funding for your project;
- how applications are assessed and approved;
- how successful applicants are notified of project approval; and
- the requirements you must meet while delivering your project.

The program has been designed in line with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs).¹

2 About the program

The purpose of the program is to deliver vital community and sporting infrastructure, open space improvements and other community priorities.

The objectives of the program are to:

- build resilient communities through the provision of social and community facilities;
- improve community amenity, accessibility and liveability through investment in community infrastructure; and
- drive economic growth in communities and the broader region.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- improve the social and economic viability of local communities;
- improve social amenity and support social cohesion; and
- increase positive health, accessibility and wellbeing outcomes.

3 Funding amount and funding period

3.1 Funding available

The Australian Government has committed up to \$560.9 million for projects under the program.

¹ [Federal Register of Legislation - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)

The maximum funding amount for your project will be specified in your invitation to apply. Requests for additional funding under this program will **not** be considered.

If your project is solely for the development of a business case, feasibility study, masterplan or similar, no additional funding is available for the construction phase of the project under this program.

3.2 Funding period

The program is expected to run for 4 years commencing in 2025-26. Funded projects should be complete by 30 June 2029.

4 Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria. If you are deemed ineligible you will be advised in writing.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible you **must** be the organisation with overall responsibility to deliver the project, be invited to deliver a project identified by the Australian Government, and:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- be registered for the purposes of the Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- have an account with an Australian financial institution and be one of the following entity types:
 - an incorporated association or other incorporated entity;
 - a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation;
 - an Australian local government body;
 - an Australian state or territory government body;
 - an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust;
 - an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Act 2006](#); or
 - a university.

Organisations applying for funding **must** also ensure that:

- Your organisation (or your project sponsor where applicable – see below) is **not** included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (nationalredress.gov.au); and
- If your organisation is an employer of 100 or more employees, that you are **compliant** with all applicable requirements under the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*.

Using a project sponsor

If your organisation has been invited to apply for the program but is not a government entity, you should identify an appropriate local, state or territory government body to submit the application for funding as your 'project sponsor'. Funding will only be provided to a local, state or territory government body. If you have any questions about the project sponsor arrangement you can contact us via email (MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au). You should confirm your project sponsor with us as soon as possible.

Project sponsor organisations are to submit one application for grant funding for each project.

The project sponsor must be authorised to enter into a funding agreement on your organisation's behalf as it will be responsible for any and all obligations under the funding agreement should your project be approved for funding.

Project sponsors may apply for funding to cover reasonable administrative costs associated with being the project sponsor organisation, where it can be demonstrated the sponsor organisation does not otherwise have the financial capacity to act as the project sponsor. Details on how to apply for this funding will be included in the application form.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for funding?

You are not eligible if your organisation and project has **not** been identified by the Australian Government and invited to apply for funding.

5 What the funding can be used for

5.1 Eligible projects

To be eligible your project **must**:

- be consistent with the intent of the Australian Government commitment;
- have as a primary outcome the construction, upgrade or extension of infrastructure that provides economic and social benefits to the community (or be a feasibility study, business case or masterplan for a project of this type); and
- not be located on a site where you do not have a formal arrangement, such as a lease, for use of the site to allow the project to be delivered.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the funding on activities directly related to your approved project. As part of your application, we may ask you to verify expected project costs, including with evidence such as recent quotes for major cost items. Eligible expenditure includes:

- direct costs of the project;
- costs you incur in order to obtain planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals in delivering your approved project;
- costs you incur to undertake required financial auditing of project expenditure; and
- costs you incur to meet Australian Government project signage requirements as set out in these guidelines and/or your funding agreement.

5.3 What the funding cannot be used for (ineligible expenditure)

You **cannot** use the funding for any of the following:

- purchase of land (including costs associated with sub-division of land), buildings or existing infrastructure;
- ongoing operating costs, including utilities, where this cost is not directly related to delivery of the project;
- wages/salaries of existing employees who are not directly engaged in delivery of the project;
- employee on-costs such as superannuation and holiday loading;
- overheads and consumables (e.g. paper, printer cartridges, office supplies, brochures and other marketing materials, kitchen supplies or food/beverages or catering);

- routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges;
- costs of preparing and submitting your funding application;
- temporary relocation costs, other than where this forms part of your approved project scope;
- making donations, gifts and sponsorships;
- ICT equipment, including software or hardware that is not an integral part of the funded project;
- domestic or overseas travel;
- funding to develop or deliver ongoing training or educational courses;
- funding for the development or operation of private or commercial ventures; and
- funding to purchase items that will not remain the property of the organisation, including items to be given away.

Any expenditure you incur prior to the execution of a funding agreement is at your own risk. You **must** ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.

You may apply for a partial or full exemption for an item listed as an ineligible cost if you can demonstrate with evidence that it is more efficient and cost effective for these costs to be met from the Australian Government funding. Your exemption request will be reviewed and the Program Delegate will make the final decision as to whether to grant an exemption. You will be notified of the outcome in writing.

6 The assessment criteria

You **must** address **all** of the assessment criteria in your application.

We will assess your application based on each criterion as set out below.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size and complexity of your proposed project and the funding amount requested. The application form provides details of the mandatory supporting documents and other optional documents you may wish to include to support your claims against the assessment criteria.

We may contact you to request additional information and/or seek clarification of information in your application in order to complete our assessment.

We will only consider funding applications that score at least 60 per cent against each assessment criterion. Applications that do not meet this benchmark will not be considered value with relevant money² and will not be awarded funding.

6.1 Assessment Criterion 1

Social and economic benefits of your project (10 points)

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

- a. why the project is needed by the community and how the community will benefit from the project, including the social and/or economic impact of the project;

² 'Value with relevant money' refers to a judgement of the proposal/project and whether it represents an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources.

- b. the broader benefits your project will deliver for the region and community during and beyond the term of funding; and
- c. details of any economic outcomes you expect from the project in the immediate and long term.

Examples of how your project could deliver economic and/or social benefits may include but are not limited to:

- increasing the number or value of jobs, new businesses or the production of goods and services in the community (this includes direct and indirect opportunities created through the project);
- the use of local suppliers and goods where practicable, especially those that employ the use of sustainable work practices/goods;
- increasing Indigenous economic participation, including Indigenous employment and supplier-use outcomes;
- examples of how your project may benefit the wider community, not just your organisation/operation, such as supporting upskilling, capability development, improving outcomes for women, or contributing to a healthy lifestyle;
- increasing efficiency of service delivery;
- reducing or mitigating the impact of carbon emissions;
- making a region a more attractive place to live, or filling a 'gap' within the community;
- the level of community participation in the project;
- improving community connections and social inclusion, or increasing community volunteering; or
- supporting or protecting local heritage, environment and culture.

Where your proposed project is only for the development of a business case, feasibility study, master plan or similar, your application should primarily address the expected social and economic benefits from future delivery of the infrastructure project rather than the benefits of the planning document itself. Evidence to support this type of project may also include:

- the inclusion of the proposed project in a masterplan for the organisation, local government area or broader region;
- economic development plans for the local government area or the broader region;
- the potential of the infrastructure project to attract further economic investment to the local government area or broader region; or
- demographic studies and/or growth forecasts for the local government area and/or broader region demonstrating that existing infrastructure will not or can no longer support future growth and that new infrastructure is required.

6.2 Assessment Criterion 2

Project viability and sustainability (10 points)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. The need for Australian Government funding, including:
 - whether the project could proceed without this funding;
 - the scope and timing of the project and any key dependencies.
- b. Your readiness to commence the project including whether:

- regulatory and/or development approvals are required or in place;
 - project designs and costings are underway or finalised;
 - authority from relevant land or infrastructure owners to undertake the project at the nominated site(s) is required or has been confirmed;
 - funding contributions from all sources have been confirmed; and
 - community consultation has taken place.
- c. Your plan to manage the project which addresses scope, implementation, procurement and works, timeframes, budget and risk management, commensurate to the size and nature of the project.

You must attach a current project budget to your application. If you are seeking a grant amount greater than \$100,000 you must also include a project plan.

Where your proposed project is a business case, feasibility study, master plan or similar, evidence to support your readiness to proceed with the project may also include:

- any preliminary work/studies that have been completed or are underway in relation to the project;
- whether preparation of tenders or similar processes for the engagement of consultants for the project is underway;
- whether initial community consultation for the future infrastructure project has commenced or been completed.

6.3 Assessment Criterion 3

Your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project (10 points)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. Your track record with similar projects and access to personnel with the right skills and experience; and any support or investment that will be leveraged to progress your project.
- b. The legal and financial status of your organisation including:
 - your financial capacity to progress the project, noting that in most cases, payments of Australian Government funding are made in arrears;
 - the nature of financial policies and procedures, and the governance structure of your organisation; and
 - your ability to operate and maintain the project following its completion.

7 How to apply

Before applying, you **must** read and understand these guidelines and the application form. Should there be any alterations to these guidelines, this will be published on [GrantConnect](#) and the department's website. You may wish to register on GrantConnect to be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

Only projects identified by the Australian Government will be considered under this program.

We will write to you (via email) to invite you to apply for funding. This correspondence will include information on the process for applying and provide the guidelines and the application form.

We ask that you acknowledge receipt of the invitation via email to MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au.

To apply you (or your project sponsor where applicable) **must**:

- submit your application and all supporting documents via email (MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au) by the due date as communicated to you in writing.

Your application **must**:

- use the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program application form;
- address **all** eligibility criteria and assessment criteria;
- include all necessary attachments;
- be signed by a suitably authorised person from your organisation (or project sponsor organisation where applicable) (e.g. your Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chair of your Board) to confirm that the project and funding application is supported by the organisation and that the organisation can complete the project and meet the costs of the project activities as set out in the application.

You (or your project sponsor where applicable) are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration on the basis of these investigations.

If we find an error, or information that is missing, or require clarification or additional information from you, we may contact you (or your project sponsor where applicable). While we will make reasonable attempts to resolve any questions, the ultimate responsibility for providing sufficient information to enable us to assess your application rests with you.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should advise us immediately by emailing MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au.

Changes to project scope

Requests for minor changes of scope can be submitted for consideration in limited circumstances. These requests **must** be provided to us in writing and should clearly state the reasons for the change and how the revised scope will align with the intent of the funding commitment. You **must** submit this request prior to the application due date, and not submit your application until you have received a response. The Program Delegate will consider whether the change of scope should be approved, and we will advise you of the outcome in writing.

7.1 Attachments to the application

You **must** attach supporting documentation to the application in line with the instructions provided within the application form. Additional supporting documents can be provided as part of your response to the assessment criteria.

We are not responsible if links to documents on public websites have been provided incorrectly, are broken or do not open.

7.2 Timing of program processes

You must submit your application on or before 1 December 2025. We cannot accept late applications unless you have approval for an extension of time (see below).

We will acknowledge that we have received your application within three (3) working days. If you have not received an acknowledgment after this time, please contact us by phone on 1800 044 938 or via email at MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au.

We will advise you in writing of the outcome of your application and provide advice on timing of next steps including anticipated timelines for entering into a funding agreement.

Please note, anticipated timeframes for approval of your application is approximately 10 weeks and execution of a funding agreement after project approval can take another 12 weeks or more. Actual timeframes may differ depending on the quality and complexity of your application and the nature of your approved project.

Requesting an extension of time to apply

You may request only **one** extension of time to submit your application for a period of up to 3 months (up to 1 March 2026). You must clearly state the reasons for requiring the extension and should not assume your request will be approved.

You should submit your request in writing to MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au at least 10 business days prior to the original application due date.

Requests will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and are at the discretion of the Program Delegate. You will be notified in writing as to whether your extension has been approved and your new application due date.

8 The funding selection process

8.1 Assessment of funding applications

We will first review your application against the eligibility criteria. Only eligible applications will move to the next stage.

If eligible, we will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6).

We consider your application on its merits based on:

- how well it meets the criteria; and
- whether it represents value with relevant money³.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to a number of considerations including:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the funding;
- the relative value of the funding sought;
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives; and
- whether the project has a risk profile that is acceptable to the Australian Government, with any identified risk able to be efficiently and effectively managed.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

We will assess each application on its merits against the assessment criteria and make funding recommendations to the Decision Maker.

In some cases, we may request advice on applications from local, state and territory governments, other Australian Government agencies, independent experts and other external parties, to help inform our assessment.

³ 'Value with relevant money' refers to a judgement of the proposal/project and whether it represents an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources.

8.3 Who will approve funding?

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is the Decision Maker and decides which applications to approve after considering the recommendations of the department.

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

- the approval of the funding;
- the funding amount to be awarded; and
- any specific terms and conditions of the funding.

9 Notification of application outcomes

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 funding.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within three (3) months of being advised of the outcome. We will give written feedback within one (1) month of your request.

10 Successful funding applications

10.1 The funding agreement

Funding for approved projects will only be provided to local, state or territory government bodies.

Successful applicants **must** enter into a legally binding funding agreement in order to receive funding for an approved project. No payments can be made to you without an executed funding agreement being in place.

The funding agreement will set out the maximum amount payable by the Australian Government and include other terms and conditions of the funding, including reporting requirements.

The Australian Government is **not** responsible for any expenditure you incur before a funding agreement is executed.

10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

While you are required to comply with all relevant laws and regulations, you may be specifically asked to demonstrate compliance with some or all of the following in order to maintain eligibility for your funding:

- certain building and construction requirements, including work health and safety requirements under Commonwealth and state or territory legislation and regulations;
- legislation in relation to Australian Government sanction regimes;
- all legislation and regulations in relation to working with children or vulnerable people;
- Australian Industry Participation requirements.

Work Health and Safety Scheme

The Australian Government Building and Construction Work Health and Safety (WHS) Accreditation Scheme applies to certain types of building and construction activities.⁴

The WHS Scheme is administered by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner.⁵ The Scheme applies to projects that are directly or indirectly funded by the Australian Government. If a project is being indirectly funded by the Australian Government (such as under the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program), the head contractor for the project must be accredited under the Scheme where:

- the project includes building work of \$4 million or more (including GST); and
- the value of the Australian Government contribution to the project is at least \$6 million (including GST) and represents at least 50 per cent of the total construction project; or
- the Australian Government contribution to a project is \$10 million or more (including GST), irrespective of the proportion of Australian Government funding.

Commonwealth Australian Industry Participation (CAIP)

If your approved funding is \$20 million or more, you may need to develop a Commonwealth Australian Industry Participation plan (CAIP plan) in accordance with the CAIP policy. Further information about the application of the CAIP policy is available on the [Department of Industry, Science and Resources website](#). A summary of approved CAIP plans may be published online.

10.3 How we pay the funding

The funding agreement will set out the funding arrangements and processes for claiming and receiving payments. Payments will typically be subject to demonstration of satisfactory progress on your project, based on achievement of milestones set out in the funding agreement. This means payments may be made to you in arrears. You should ensure that your organisation has the financial capacity to deliver your project under these arrangements.

10.4 Funding payments and GST

Where applicable, the GST will be added to your funding payment. GST does not apply to funding payments to government related entities.⁶

Funding is assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).⁷ We do not provide advice on tax.

11 Announcement of funding

If your funding application is successful, information about your project may be provided through public media and events. This information may include details such as:

- the name of your organisation;
- the title of the project;
- a description of the project and its aims; and
- the amount of funding awarded.

⁴ [fsc.gov.au/how-do-i-know-if-i-need-use-accredited-builder](https://www.fsc.gov.au/how-do-i-know-if-i-need-use-accredited-builder)

⁵ [fsc.gov.au](https://www.fsc.gov.au)

⁶ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at [ato.gov.au](https://www.ato.gov.au)

⁷ [ato.gov.au/](https://www.ato.gov.au/)

12 How we monitor your activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

During the application and assessment process, you (or your project sponsor where applicable) should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation. We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they will affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must notify us of any upcoming events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend. Further information on these requirements will be included in your funding agreement (see also Section 12.6).

12.2 Reporting

You will be asked to report on your project's progress during its delivery.

You **must** submit all reports required by the funding agreement. You may be asked to provide reports when achieving milestones and claiming payments, at ad hoc intervals during project delivery, and/or to provide a final report upon project completion.

12.3 Financial declarations

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the funding was spent in accordance with the funding agreement and to report on any underspends of the funding. Your funding agreement will detail any specific funding acquittal processes, which may include a requirement for an independently audited financial acquittal report.

12.4 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of the project period to review project progress and compliance with the funding agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.5 Evaluation

We may evaluate the program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application, funding agreement and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the funding impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes. We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.6 Acknowledgement

You will be required to comply with a range of branding and recognition requirements, which may include holding an official event opening. Your funding agreement will specify these requirements, including compliance with the [Australian Government's Building Australia Signage Guidelines](#).

You must notify us of any public events or activities relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend. All signage, publicity and public statements about your project must acknowledge the Australian Government funding using words and branding approved by us.

13 Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the funding opportunity process is fair, is conducted in accordance with the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

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

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

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The department's Complaints Management procedures apply to complaints about this grant program. 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 MLCIP@infrastructure.gov.au.

The department welcomes your feedback about the policy, programs or service provided by us. Any feedback should be submitted to us in writing via:

Email: [Online Enquiries Form](#) or

Mail: Assurance, Integrity, Risk and Governance Branch
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the department. There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone: 1300 362 072

Online contact form: ombudsman.gov.au/contact-us

Website: ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest, can affect the performance of the funding opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the 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;
- have a 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

- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives funding under the program.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests 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.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). 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](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

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

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

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about applicants and funding recipients under this program in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing 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, State, or Territory Government entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and your intention to 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 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 funding 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.

We will keep any information in connection with the funding 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;
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:

- 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 relation to program administration or 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.

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

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this funding program, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (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 FOI 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 2154
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: FOI@infrastructure.gov.au

14 Glossary

Term	Definition
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 funding opportunity, to determine application rankings.
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. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
department	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Decision Maker	The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is the Decision Maker for this program.
eligible application	An application or proposal for funding under the Program that the Program delegate has determined is eligible for assessment.
eligibility criteria	The mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for funding. See Section 4 of these guidelines.
eligible expenditure	Expenditure on a project which is eligible for funding support as set out in Section 5 of these guidelines.
eligible project	A project determined as eligible under the criteria as set out in Section 5.1 of these guidelines.
funding activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the applicant is required to undertake.
funding agreement	Sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the funding.
GrantConnect	Is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.

Term	Definition
local government	Local government has the same definition as a local governing body at section 4 of the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth). This means: a. a local governing body established by or under a law of a State, other than a body whose sole or principal function is to provide a particular service, such as the supply of electricity or water; or b. a body declared by the Minister, on the advice of the relevant State Minister, by notice published in the Gazette, to be a local governing body for the purposes of this Act.
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The 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.
Program	The 'program' in this context refers to the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program.
Program closing date	5pm AEDT (or your local equivalent) on 1 March 2026* *All applications must be received on or before 1 December 2025 unless an extension of time has been granted in accordance with Section 7.2 of these guidelines.
Program Delegate	The departmental official who has been given the delegation (from the relevant Minister) to make decisions of an administrative nature that do not materially affect the funding value, scope or agreed outcomes of the project.
project sponsor	Responsible for submitting the application and entering into a funding agreement on behalf of another eligible organisation (see Section 4).
state and territory governments	state and territory governments are the: · Australian Capital Territory Government · New South Wales Government · Northern Territory Government · Queensland Government · South Australian Government · Tasmanian Government · Victorian Government · Western Australian Government

Term	Definition
value with relevant money	A judgement based on the proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. Can include consideration of the financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal, including but not limited to: • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of funding is likely to prevent the recipient and government's outcomes being achieved; and • the applicant's relevant experience and performance history.