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

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Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Grant Opportunity Guidelines—Round 1 (Power Resilience Round)

May 2023

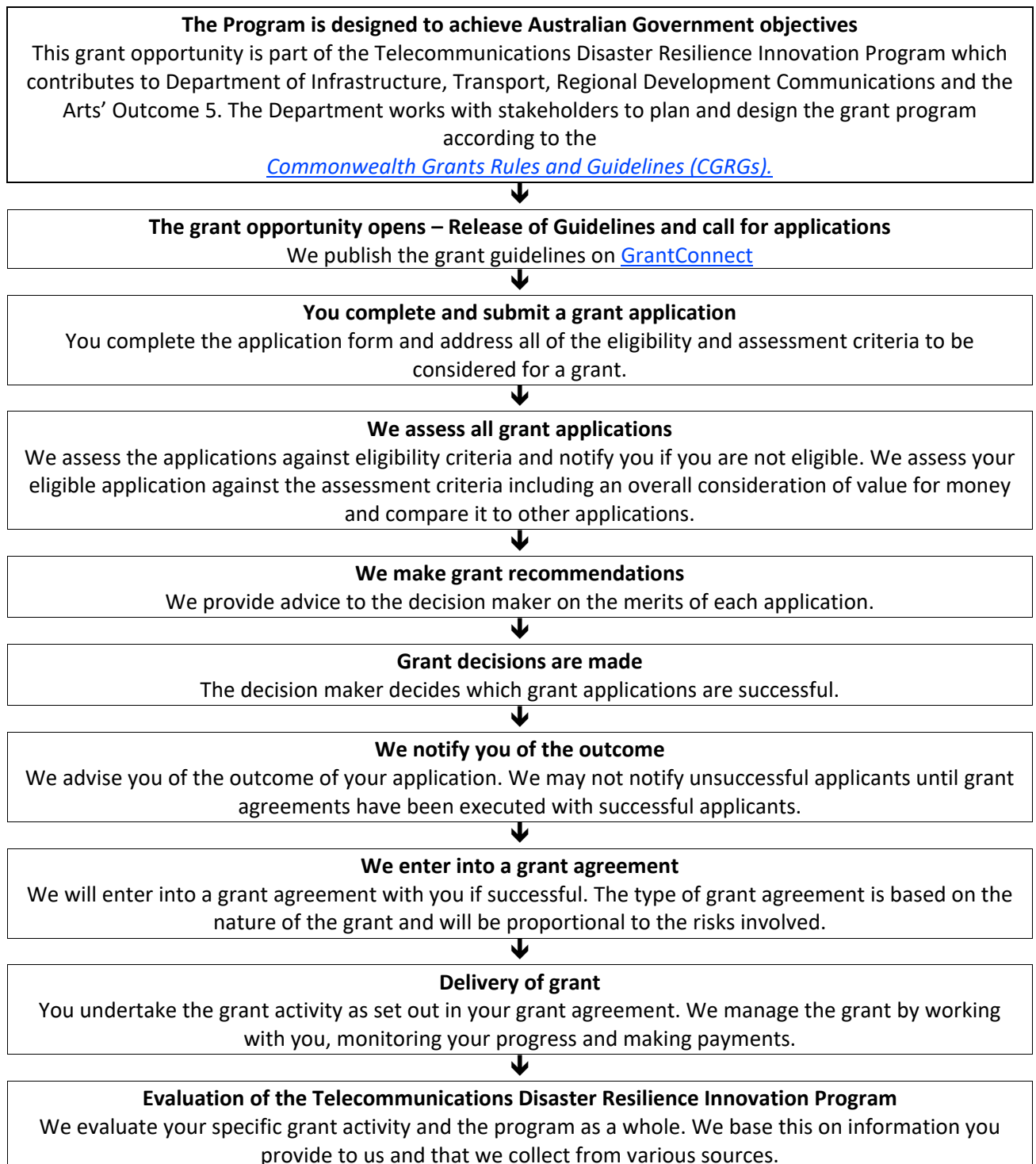|	
Opening date:	[dd mm yyyy]
Closing date and time:	[00.00 AEST] on [dd mm yyyy] (10 weeks after opening)
Commonwealth policy and administering entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, please email TDRI@communications.gov.au. Questions should be sent no later than 14 days prior to the closing date for grant applications.
Date guidelines released:	[dd mm yyyy]
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1.   Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Program: Round 1 (Power Resilience Round) process

The Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives
This grant opportunity is part of the Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Program which contributes to Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development Communications and the Arts' Outcome 5. The Department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs).

⬇

The grant opportunity opens – Release of Guidelines and call for applications
We publish the grant guidelines on GrantConnect

⬇

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.

⬇

We assess all grant applications
We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. We assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value for money and compare it to other applications.

⬇

We make grant recommendations
We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.

⬇

Grant decisions are made
The decision maker decides which grant applications are successful.

⬇

We notify you of the outcome
We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

⬇

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 proportional 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 Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Program
We evaluate your specific grant activity and the program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1   These Grant Opportunity Guidelines contain information for the Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Program (the TDRI Program) – Round 1 (Power Resilience Round) grants. You must read these guidelines before filling out an application. This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

1.1.2   This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

2   Program overview

2.1. About the Program

2.1.1   The Australian Government committed $50 million (GST excl.) for the TDRI program over three years from 2022–23 to 2024–25 as part of the Australian Government's $656 million Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia announced in the October 2022 Budget.

2.1.2   The TDRI program will encourage the development and deployment of innovative, new or emerging technologies and/or solutions that will improve the resiliency of telecommunications against the impacts of natural disasters. This will help ensure that Australian communities remain connected and can continue to access vital services before, during and after a natural disaster occurs. Further information on the Program is available on the Department's website at: https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/phone/telecommunications-disaster-resilience-innovation-program.

2.1.3   There will be two grant opportunities under the TDRI program. These guidelines cover the Round 1 (Power Resilience Round) grant opportunity (detailed further in section 2.2).

2.1.4 $30 million (GST excl.) will be notionally allocated for Round 1. This notional allocation is flexible, with the exact amount of grant funding provided under each round dependent on the number and nature of applications received.

2.1.5   The objective of the TDRI program is to improve the preparedness of Australia's telecommunications networks against rising climate risks, including against an anticipated increase in the frequency and severity of natural hazards in Australia, by:

- supporting and accelerating the development and deployment of innovative, new or emerging technologies that will improve the resiliency of telecommunications, particularly in rural, regional, remote or First Nations communities;
- demonstrating the benefits of emerging telecommunications technologies in improving disaster resiliency outcomes; and
- encouraging greater collaboration and partnerships between industry and government stakeholders on telecommunications disaster resilience matters.

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2.1.6   The intended outcomes of the program are:

- expedited adoption of emerging telecommunications technologies in Australia that will improve disaster resilience outcomes for Australian communities (including through preventing outages and/or supporting the rapid restoration of services following an outage); and
- reduced instances of telecommunications outages during natural disaster events, including reduced instances of communities being isolated and unable to contact Triple Zero services or access other critical services/supports such as disaster financial assistance.

2.1.7   We administer the program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs)[1].

2.2. About the Round 1 (Power Resilience Round) grant opportunity

2.2.1   These grant opportunity guidelines contain information for the $30 million (GST excl.) notional allocation for Round 1 (Power Resilience Round) grants under the TDRI program.

2.2.2   The Round 1 grant opportunity is seeking to fund projects that align with one of the **three** focus areas identified below.

2.2.3   These focus areas have been identified by the Australian Government, in consultation with industry and government stakeholders, as priority areas where the development and/or deployment of emerging technologies and solutions are likely to lead to substantial improvements in the overall disaster preparedness and resiliency of telecommunications for Australian communities.

2.2.4   The three focus areas targeted in Round 1 are:

- Focus area 1: Stand-alone, off-grid power solutions:

  This focus area is seeking to support proposals that involve the development or deployment of innovative, place-based power solutions at existing telecommunications infrastructure sites or facilities that will remove (or substantially reduce) the exposure and dependence of these sites or facilities to the energy network/mains power supply in rural, regional, remote and/or First Nations communities.

  This may include, for example, stand-alone or hybrid power systems that combine a mix of renewable (e.g. hydrogen, wind, solar etc.) and non-renewable (e.g. diesel) energy generation sources with energy storage (e.g. batteries) to provide additional power resiliency than could otherwise be provided by a standard battery or generator alone.

- Focus area 2: Deployable power solutions:

  This focus area is seeking to support the development or acquisition of new, innovative portable power solutions that can be rapidly deployed to restore power to at-risk telecommunications infrastructure sites or facilities following a disaster-induced disruption to the mains power supply.

  This may include, for example, solutions that provide a greater, longer lasting power supply, are more rapidly deployable, and/or are more readily able to access hard-to-reach telecommunications infrastructure sites or facilities relative to existing solutions.

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[1] https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf

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- Focus area 3: Energy efficient telecommunications infrastructure:

  This focus area is seeking to support the development or deployment of innovative, place-based solutions that will improve the energy efficiency of telecommunications network infrastructure sites or facilities in rural, regional, remote and/or First Nations communities where these sites or facilities already have a permanent backup power supply installed (i.e. to reduce energy draw and extend the existing power backup supplies).

  This may include installing energy efficient equipment (e.g. cooling and transmission equipment or other equipment) to optimise network load and reduce overall energy consumption in a natural disaster.

2.2.5   You must identify one focus area that your proposed project is targeting in your application. If your proposed project aligns with more than one focus area, you must identify the most relevant focus area that the proposed project aligns with.

3   Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

3.1.1   The total grant funding notionally allocated for Round 1 is **$30 million** (GST excl.). Funding is available for projects until 30 June 2025.

3.1.2   You may request a grant amount in your application that corresponds to **one** of the two funding streams outlined below. These two funding streams recognise that different technologies or solutions may be at different stages of maturity and require different levels of support and investment.

3.1.3   The funding stream targeted in your application should align with the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the solution identified in your proposed project. The TRL is a 9-level scale used to provide a common language for describing the maturity of a technology, where a TRL of 1 represents technologies that are least mature and a TRL of 9 represents technologies that are proven to work. Further information on the TRL scale used for the TDRI program is provided in Appendix A.

3.1.4   The funding streams for the TDRI program are:

- Funding Stream 1: Pilot Grants (maximum grant amount of $1,500,000 GST excl.):

  These grants are intended to support projects that propose to use technologies which are aligned with a TRL of between 4 and 7.

  This funding stream would support projects involving the development, piloting, trialling and/or testing of innovative technologies that, while technically feasible and are likely to have benefits for telecommunications power resiliency, require additional development, field or prototype/viability testing etc. before being commissioned or deployed at scale (such as to resolve technical issues or to demonstrate/validate a proof-of-concept etc.).

- Funding Stream 2: Deployment Grants (maximum grant amount of $5,000,000 GST excl.):

  These grants are intended to support projects that propose to use technologies which are aligned with a TRL of between 8 and 9.

  This funding stream would support projects involving the broader deployment of innovative technologies that have demonstrated power resiliency benefits for telecommunications and where the technical feasibility of the proposed technology has already been demonstrated and established.

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3.1.5   The minimum grant amount across both funding streams is $50,000 (GST excl.).

3.1.6   Note that technologies at a TRL of between 1 and 3 are out of scope for funding under the TDRI program.

3.2   Financial co-contribution

3.2.1   The grant amount will be up to **50 per cent** of total eligible project expenditure. You and your project partners (if applicable) are responsible for funding the remaining project costs not covered by the grant amount. Your co-contribution must be cash.

3.2.2   Applicants are encouraged to seek financial co-contributions towards your proposal from state, territory or local governments, local communities and/or third parties. Applicants are solely responsible for forming relationships and negotiating contributions with any relevant third parties, and for testing and/or verifying any advice received by these third parties.

3.2.3   For funded projects that include a co-contribution from a state or territory government, the Department expects that grantees will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth and a separate agreement with the respective state or territory government.

3.2.4   For proposals that include co-contributions from other parties, a copy of the terms of the third parties' commitment to the applicant is to be attached to the application for funding. The grantee will bear any costs, and cover the other parties' funding if the other parties' funding is not secured following execution of the Grant Agreement between the Grantee and the Commonwealth.

3.2.5   The decision maker may agree to waive the 50 per cent financial co-contribution amount (either partially or in its entirety) in exceptional circumstances for proposals that demonstrate significant benefits for telecommunications power resilience in rural, regional, remote or First Nations communities and where the applicant is unable to contribute financially to meet the 50 per cent financial co-contribution requirement. The decision maker's agreement to waive the financial co-contribution amount is not guaranteed under any circumstances.

3.2.6   We cannot provide a grant if you receive funding from another Commonwealth source for the same or substantially similar purpose or project. You can apply for grants under any other Commonwealth program for the same project, but you must declare this and identify the program(s) in question in your application. If your applications are successful, you must choose either the TDRI program grant or the other Commonwealth grant.

3.3   Project period

3.3.1   The maximum project period is 24 months.

3.3.2   You must complete your project by 30 June 2025.

3.4   Operational period

3.4.1   Where a project is funded through Funding Stream 2: Deployment Grants, and regardless of the focus area targeted, grantees will be required to maintain the funded solution for an Operational Period of 10 years.

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4 Eligibility criteria

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

4.1.1 We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria set out below.

4.1.2 To be eligible under both funding streams, you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST

and be one of the following entity types:

- a company incorporated in Australia
- a company incorporated by guarantee in Australia
- a partnership where each partner is a constitutional corporation
- a joint (consortia) application of incorporated entities[2]
- a publicly funded research organisation that is a company incorporated in Australia
- An Australian local government body, or state/territory government body, where an application involves a partnership with at least one other eligible entity (under subsection 4.1.2 or 4.1.3 as applicable).
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

4.1.3 In addition to 4.1.2, if your application is targeting Funding Stream 2: Deployment Grants, to be eligible you must also be:

- a Mobile Network Operator (MNO) (note: an MNO means a company that supplies a public telecommunications service within the meaning of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*);
- a Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider (MNIP) (note: a MNIP means a company, other than an MNO, that provides communications infrastructure or facilities in Australia that support the provision of public mobile telecommunications services in Australia by an MNO); or
- an NBN corporation as defined in Clause 1 of Schedule 1 of the *National Broadband Network Companies Act 2011*.

4.1.4 Joint (consortia) applications are acceptable and encouraged, provided you have a lead organisation that is eligible to apply. Your project partners do not have to be one of the eligible entities identified in 4.1.2 (or 4.1.3 where applicable), and may for example include an individual or an unincorporated association.

4.1.5 The program delegate makes the final decision about whether an application meets the eligibility criteria. These decisions will not be reviewed.

4.2 Additional eligibility requirements

4.2.1 We can only accept applications where:

- you demonstrate that you are able to meet your share of the project costs and provide evidence of your contribution and your project partners' contributions (where applicable) as outlined in section 3.2.

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[2] The Australian Government recognises that some organisations may seek to form consortia in order to apply for a grant under the TDRI program. Consortia are eligible to apply and the relevant conditions applicable to consortia are at 7.2 'Joint Applications'.

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- the lead applicant is capable of entering into a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the Australian Government.

4.3   Eligible locations

4.3.1   Where your application is targeting Funding Stream 2: Deployment Grants and either:

- Focus Area 1: Stand-alone, off-grid energy solutions, or
- Focus area 3: Energy Efficient Telecommunications Infrastructure.

your proposed project must be delivered in an Eligible Location identified in subsection 4.3.2 in order to be eligible for grant funding.

4.3.2   Eligible Locations are defined as areas within Australia (and its territories) that are:

- not classified in the Urban Centres and Localities geographical units by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as 'Major Urban' (i.e. with a population of 100,000 or more)[3]; or
- within 2 kilometres inside a 'Major Urban' boundary.

4.4   Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

4.4.1   You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, 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' (www.nationalredress.gov.au).

5   What the grant money can be used for

5.1   Eligible activities

5.1.1   To be eligible your project must:

- enhance the power resiliency of telecommunications in line with one of the focus areas (outlined in section 2.2);
- indicate which funding stream (outlined in section 3.1) your project is targeting including what TRL the technology you propose to use in your project is aligned to;
- have at least $100,000 (GST excl.) in eligible expenditure (we fund 50 per cent of eligible expenditure, meaning $100,000 (GST excl.) in eligible expenditure is required in order to receive the minimum grant amount of $50,000 (GST excl.)); and
- be delivered in an eligible location (outlined in section 4.3) if applicable.

5.1.2   Eligible activities must relate directly to your proposed project, targeted focus area and funding stream and can include (but are not limited to):

- conducting trials, pilots etc. that involves the rigorous testing of emerging technologies in a disaster resilience context to improve the power resiliency of telecommunications;
- demonstrating the technical viability of your proposal such as through limited field testing; and
- communication and information sharing activities which are necessary and directly connected with the implementation of the project.

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[3] Information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics on geographic classifications can be found at: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3: Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, July 2021. A map showing geographic classifications can be found on ABS Maps and by selecting the boundary type '2021 Section of State (SOS)'.

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5.1.3   We may also approve other activities.

5.2   Eligible expenditure

5.2.1   You can only spend grant funds on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

5.2.2   Eligible expenditure items under both funding streams can include:

- the purchase and/or installation of equipment or supplies directly used in the project;
- employee costs specifically related to the implementation of the project;
- set-up and administration costs connected with the project;
- domestic travel limited to the reasonable cost of accommodation and transportation required to conduct agreed project activities within Australia;
- specialist technical advice associated with the project;
- staff training that directly supports the achievement of project outcomes; and/or
- the cost of an independent audit of project expenditure (where we request one) up to a maximum of 1 per cent of total eligible project expenditure.

5.2.3   Other eligible expenditure items may be agreed by the Department.

5.2.4   We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place on the date you submitted your application will apply to your project.

5.2.5   Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding under the Program. The Program Delegate (who is a Senior Executive Service Officer within the Department with responsibility for the Program) makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

5.2.6   If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes and receipts for major expenditure.

5.2.7   You must incur the expenditure on your project between the commencement date and end or completion date for your grant agreement for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

5.2.8   You may choose to commence your project (or any element of it) from the date we notify you that your application is successful. However, we are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement with you is executed by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth will not be liable, and should not be held out as being liable, for any activities undertaken by you or on your behalf, in carrying out the project (or elements of it) before the grant agreement is executed by the Commonwealth.

5.3   What the grant money cannot be used for

5.3.1   Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- costs or expenses incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation (applicants must bear their own costs and expenses associated with the application, the assessment process, and the preparation, negotiation and execution of the Grant Agreement and of other documentation);
- costs incurred through business as usual or administration activities (for example, wages, electricity, phone and rent);
- overseas travel;
- the covering of retrospective costs;

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- financing costs, including interest;
- depreciation of assets;
- fines and penalties;
- pure or basic research (e.g. activities aligned with a TRL of 1-3);
- advertising or marketing;
- purchase of land or land access rights;
- costs relating to patent applications;
- any costs incurred during the Operational Period;
- capital, infrastructure or equipment costs that are unrelated to the project outcomes or conditions of the grant, and
- other activities not relevant to the activities to which the grant has been made.

5.3.2   The Department reserves the right to exclude an application for funding to cover an activity the Department considers to be a regular business activity, an activity the applicant already committed to fund on its own initiative, or an activity that is reasonably expected to be carried out through the normal course of business by the applicant.

6   The assessment criteria

6.1.1   You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application. The obligation is on the applicant to demonstrate how the proposed project meets each assessment criterion.

6.1.2   The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. You should provide sufficient evidence to support your responses to the assessment criteria, including evidence on how your proposed project will lead to an improvement in the disaster resiliency of telecommunications infrastructure.

6.1.3   We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion to develop an overall score. Each application will also undergo an overall Value for Money assessment to determine whether the proposed project represents Value for Money for the Commonwealth.

6.1.4   The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be proportionate to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested (for example, a small-scale proposal seeking a small grant amount will not be expected to have a project plan that is as extensive as a larger, more complex high value proposal).

6.1.5   We encourage you to seek the support of local government and/or state or territory government in preparing your application.

6.1.6   The assessment criteria are as follows:

Assessment criterion 1 – Disaster Resilience Benefits and Innovation

Project alignment with program objectives and outcomes (50 points)

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

a)   the technology or solution in your proposed project, including its maturity and technical viability (proven or otherwise) and your estimate of the technology/solution's TRL (see Appendix A);

b)   how the technology or solution will improve the disaster resilience of telecommunications against the impacts of (or risks posed by) natural hazards and power outages for rural, regional, remote and/or First Nations communities in Australia;

c)   if applicable, whether the project will benefit multiple telecommunications networks;

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d)   the extent to which the technology or solution should be considered to be unique or innovative in a telecommunications disaster resilience context relative to technologies or solutions that already exist within Australia,

e)   the extent to which your proposed project contributes to and aligns with the objective and outcomes of the TDRI Program and the Round 1 – Power Resilience Round Grant Opportunity, including alignment with a focus area and funding stream;

- *(for* applications *targeting Funding Stream 1: Pilot Grants):* if the technology or solution identified in your proposed project is scalable and/or able to be commercialised in the event of a successful pilot/trial/test etc. and a reasonable plan for any next steps towards commercialisation, adoption and/or larger scale deployment following the completion of your project;
- *(for applications targeting Funding Stream 2: Deployment Grants)*: your commitment and ability to maintain the proposed technology or solution for an Operational Period following the completion of your project.

Assessment criterion 2 – Project Delivery

Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (40 points)

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

a)   your previous experience, capability and track record in managing and delivering comparable projects;

b)   your readiness to commence and deliver the project, including your access to (or future access to) any necessary infrastructure, key personnel with the right skills and experience to manage and deliver the proposed project, equipment or finance;

c)   your capacity to deliver the proposed project with respect to your organisation's broader program of work (including in the context of any other projects you are undertaking or intending to undertake)

d)   your ability to complete the project within the project period and within budget, including:

- a project plan for managing and delivering the proposed project that identifies a proposed schedule outlining key tasks, milestones and dates, risk management plan, and your plan for identifying, managing and engaging stakeholders relevant to the proposed project as appropriate; and
- a proposed budget for the proposed project that identifies relevant costs for key items such as hardware, material, equipment, labour, contractor activities, and other overhead costs such as project management, administration, travel, transport, travel and accommodation etc.

e)   where applicable, your readiness to meet any necessary regulatory requirements, licences or to obtain any other approvals required to deliver the project.

Assessment criterion 3 – Partnerships and Financial Co-contributions

Partnerships and total investment the grant funding will leverage (10 points)

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

a)   if applicable, the full details of who you propose to partner with to deliver the project (including state or territory governments, local governments, other industry, business or community

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groups) and the expected outcomes of the partnering arrangement as it relates to the objectives of the Grant Opportunity and delivery of the proposed project;

b)   your financial co-contribution to the project and any co-contributions from third parties (including but not limited to state, territory or local governments, local communities, other businesses or any combination of these);

c)   if your total co-contributions (including any co-contributions from third parties):

- exceed 50 per cent of the total project cost (for example, where your co-contribution will fund 65 per cent of the costs and the grant amount sought will cover the remaining 35 per cent); or
- is less than 50 per cent of the total project cost in accordance with subsection 3.2.5 (for example, where your co-contribution amount will cover 35 per cent of the costs and the grant amount sought will cover the remaining 65 per cent) and your case for seeking this.

Note that under this criterion, a higher financial co-contribution from you (including any third parties) will help drive a higher score in the assessment process.

7   How to apply

7.1   The application process

7.1.1   Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines, the sample application form and the sample grant agreement.

7.1.2   These documents are available at GrantConnect. Any alterations and addenda[4] will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified on any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

7.1.3   To apply you must:

- complete the Grant Opportunity application form
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments
- ensure all electronic files are provided in an appropriate Microsoft compatible format (Microsoft Office 2007 or later or PDF files)
- submit your application/s to TDRI@communications.gov.au by the closing date shown on page 1 of these guidelines.

7.1.4   We will publish the opening and closing dates of the Grant Opportunity and any other relevant information on GrantConnect.

7.1.5   Applications should provide sufficient information to enable their assessment against the eligibility and assessment criteria.

7.1.6   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. If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information, we may exclude your application from further consideration.

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[4] Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents.

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7.1.7   You cannot change your application after the closing date and time. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at TDRI@communications.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests, from you to correct your application after the closing time.

7.1.8   If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

7.1.9   You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents for your own records.

7.1.10 If you need further guidance around the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online, contact us at TDRI@communications.gov.au.

7.2   Attachments to the application

7.2.1   We require the following documents with your application:

- a business case for your proposed project;
- a project plan (including a risk management plan, timeline/key milestones, and a stakeholder management plan);
- an indicative budget for the proposed project including costs of all key items of hardware, material, equipment, labour, contractor activities and other overhead costs such as project management, administration, transport, travel and accommodation;
- evidence of your commitment to financial co-contributions as detailed in section 3.2;
- letters of support from your project partners and any partner agreements (if applicable);
- a copy of the terms of any third parties' commitment to the applicant;
- trust deed (if applicable); and
- any other documentation required to evidence or support your responses to the relevant assessment criteria.

7.2.2   You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2.3   To ensure fairness to all applicants, we reserve the right not to consider any application, or any part of an application, that was received after the closing time, or which is submitted in a way that is not consistent with these Guidelines.

7.3   Joint (consortia) applications

7.3.1   We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver a project.

7.3.2   In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the partners.

7.3.3   Each letter of support should include:

- details of the partner organisation;
- an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the project;
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group;

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- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources or financial co-contributions they will contribute (if any); and
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

7.3.4   You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the Grant Agreement.

7.4   Timing of grant opportunity processes

7.4.1   You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. The Department reserves the right to, in exceptional circumstances, accept a late application to the assessment process at its sole discretion. Without limiting the Department's discretion, exceptional circumstances may include natural disasters or unforeseen technical issues with the application forms or lodgement system. Any decision by the Department on whether or not to accept a late application to the assessment process is final.

7.4.2   If you believe there are circumstances which will affect the timely submission of your application, you must contact us before the application closing date to negotiate an alternative submission due date.

7.4.3   If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your project by around [TBC] 2023.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Round 1 timeframe
Applications close	[TBC]
Assessment of applications	8 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	6 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	4 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
End date of grant activity or agreement	30 June 2025

7.5   Questions during the application process

7.5.1   If you have any questions during the application period, contact TDRI@communications.gov.au. Answers to questions will be posted on GrantConnect as Frequently Asked Questions.

8   The grant selection process

8.1   Assessment of grant applications

8.1.1   Eligible applications will be considered through an open competitive grant process.

8.1.2   The assessment process for the TDRI Program – Round 1 (Power Resilience Round) will be as follows:

- Following the closing date for applications, the Department will undertake an initial check to ensure that each application is complete and that all necessary supporting documentation has been submitted. The Department may, at its discretion, contact an applicant to request missing information.

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- The Department will then undertake an assessment of applications against the Eligibility Criteria. Applications that do not meet one or more Eligibility Criteria will be excluded from further consideration.
- Eligible applications will then be assessed on their merits by the Evaluation Committee based on how well the application meets the assessment criteria, how it compares to other proposed projects in other applications, and whether it provides Value for Money (in accordance with the considerations outlined in subsection 8.1.5).
- The Evaluation Committee will then prepare a merit list for each focus area and funding stream that it considers meets the assessment criteria, will provide overall Value for Money to the Commonwealth, and which it recommends for funding.
- The Department will provide the merit list with funding recommendations to the Decision Maker. The Decision Maker will consider these recommendations and decide which grants applications to approve.

8.1.3   In assessing eligible applications, Evaluation Committee may but is not obligated to:

- Request further information about you or your application, including where the information provided in an application is not sufficient to make a recommendation. Information may be requested from you or elsewhere (for example, from within the Australian Government or the state or territory governments even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees).
- Consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business or otherwise publicly available.
- Seek clarification to refine a proposed project where desirable in order to maximise outcomes for the TDRI program and accommodate any budgetary or other constraints that may influence the assessment of the application.

8.1.4   The assessment of the extent to which your application represents value for money and the corresponding score will be based on:

- the overall objectives to be achieved in providing the grant;
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting those objectives;
- how well it meets the assessment criteria;
- how it compares to other applications targeting the same focus area;
- any further information requested and provided as part of the assessment process; and
- the relative value of the grant sought.

8.1.5   As part of the overall Value for Money assessment, we will group all eligible proposed projects by focus area and funding stream to ensure that we compare similar proposed projects against each other.

8.1.6   Based on the overall Value for Money assessment, the Department reserves the right to recommend funding for one or more proposed projects which were lower ranked in the Assessment Criteria relative to other eligible proposed projects. The Department also reserves the right to recommend not funding one or more proposed projects which are highly ranked against the Assessment Criteria based on the Value for Money assessment.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

8.2.1   Officers from within the Telecommunications Resilience Branch will review the applications against the eligibility criteria to ensure that ineligible applications are excluded from the process before the Evaluation Committee begins its assessment.

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8.2.2 The Evaluation Committee will assess eligible applications on their merits against the assessment criteria and compare it to other applications before recommending which proposed project should be awarded a grant.

8.2.3 We may ask independent technical advisors to help inform the assessment process. The technical advisors may undertake an assessment from a technical viability perspective. Technical advisors may be internal or external to the Commonwealth. All technical advisors will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

8.3.1 The Minister for Communications (the Decision Maker) decides which grants to approve, taking into account the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee and the availability of grant funds for the TDRI program.

8.3.2 As the Decision Maker, the Minister's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant;
- the grant funding amount to be awarded; and
- any specific conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

8.3.3 There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

8.3.4 Following a decision on successful grant applications, the Department will handle the negotiation and execution of grant agreements.

9 Notification of application outcomes

9.1.1 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.

9.1.2 If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within 28 days of being advised of the outcome. We will aim to provide written feedback to your request within one month of your request.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1   The grant agreement

10.1.1 You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The Department will administer the grant agreements on behalf of the Commonwealth.

10.1.2 We use a standard grant agreement in this program. Each agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Sample grant agreements are available on GrantConnect.

10.1.3 We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your project before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk.

10.1.4 You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

10.1.5 The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

10.1.6 If you enter into an agreement under the TDRI Program, you cannot receive other grant funding for this project from other Commonwealth granting programs.

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10.1.7 Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Minister. We will identify these in the agreement.

10.1.8 You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the grant as approved by the Minister.

10.1.9 The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

10.1.10 After a grant agreement has been executed, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website within 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

10.2 Project specific legislation, policies and industry standards

10.2.1 You must comply with all relevant laws and regulations in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

10.2.2 In particular, you will be required to comply with:

- state/territory legislation in relation to working with children, natural disasters and/or emergency management as applicable;
- the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cth), including in respect of the supply of carriage services, any carrier licence conditions (as applicable), codes or standards made under this Act or any disaster plans made under Part 16 of this Act;
- the *Radiocommunications Act 1992 (Cth)*, including in respect to any requirements or conditions relating to spectrum licences; and
- any other relevant legislation or regulations at the Commonwealth, state or territory level specific to your proposal.

10.2.3 Where a project proposal is dependent on issues of regulatory approvals, the approval of the grant will not in itself guarantee such regulatory approval. Failure to secure such regulatory approvals for your project will impact on the continuation of any grant agreement.

10.3 How we pay the grant

10.3.1 The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid;
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage);
- any financial contributions you must make;
- any financial contribution provided by a third party; and
- any other terms that apply specifically to your grant.

10.3.2 We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

10.3.3 We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project, achievement of agreed milestones and compliance with the terms of the agreement (including reporting requirements).

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10.4 Grants Payments and GST

10.4.1 Grant payments will be GST inclusive. We will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.

10.4.2 Grants are 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.[5] We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11 Announcement of grants

11.1.1 We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines unless otherwise prohibited by law. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation;
- title of your project;
- description of the project and its aims;
- amount of grant funding awarded;
- Australian Business Number;
- business location; and/or
- your organisation's industry sector

12 How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

12.1.1 You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

12.1.2 We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

12.1.3 You must also inform us of any changes to your:

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

12.1.4 If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

12.1.5 You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

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[5] https://www.ato.gov.au/

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12.2   Reporting

12.2.1   You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project activities, milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds.
- contributions of participants directly related to the project

12.2.2   The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount.

12.2.3   We will monitor progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.2.4   **Progress reports:** Progress reports must:

- include details of your progress towards completion of agreed project activities
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).
- We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.
- You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

12.2.5   **Ad-hoc reports:** We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

12.2.6   **Final report:** When you complete the project, you must submit a final report. Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes 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 for the project
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date as specified in the grant agreement.
- The Department will only make the final grant payment after we receive a satisfactory final report.

12.2.7   You must discuss any reporting delays with the Department as soon as you become aware of them.

12.3 Independent audits

12.3.1   We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The financial acquittal report template is attached to the sample grant agreement.

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12.4 Grant agreement variations

12.4.1 We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. Variations can include:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project
- changing project activities

12.4.2 Variations involving an increase in grant funds will not be considered.

12.4.3 If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put these changes in writing before the project end date. We can provide you with a variation request template.

12.4.4 If a delay in the project causes milestone achievement and payment dates to move to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is sufficient program funding available for the relevant year to allow for the revised payment schedule. If we cannot move the funds, you may lose some grant funding.

12.4.5 You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcomes
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the Department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

12.5 Compliance visits

12.5.1 We (including entities acting on our behalf) may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of the project, to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

12.6.1 We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

12.7.1 We will evaluate the grant opportunity 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 to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

12.7.2 We may contact you up to two years after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8 Acknowledgement

12.8.1 If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, including in a brochure, publication or website, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

"This project received grant funding from the Australian Government."

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12.8.2   If you erect signage pin relation to the project, the signage must contain an acknowledgement of the grant.

13   Probity

13.1   Probity

13.1.1   The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

13.1.2   These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

13.2   Enquiries and feedback

13.2.1   The Department's Client Service Charter applies to complaints about this Grant Opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

13.2.2   Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to TDRI@communications.gov.au.

13.2.3   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.

13.2.4   The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.3   Conflicts of interest

13.3.1   Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or external advisor;
- has 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
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

13.3.2   As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

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

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13.3.4   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](#)*. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

13.4 Privacy

13.4.1   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.

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

13.4.3   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.

13.4.4   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.

13.4.5   As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and 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.

13.4.6   Successful applicants will be required to manage customer information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles as applicable. While complying with these obligations, you will also be required to provide customer information, including contact details, to us for monitoring purposes and for any proposed customer surveying or evaluation purposes.

13.4.7   Your ability to perform the project in a manner that complies with applicable laws, including the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles, will be considered as part of the assessment process.

13.5 Confidential Information

13.5.1   Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any information that is confidential to the Department 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).

13.5.2   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.

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13.5.3   We will keep any information you supply in or as part of the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

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

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

- the Evaluation Committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees, contractors and consultants 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 or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

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

13.6   Freedom of information

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

13.6.2   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.

13.6.3   If someone requests a document relating to the program under the FOI Act, we will release it unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first).

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14   Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
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
Assessment Committee	Persons appointed by the Department to assess the grant applications.
assessment criteria	are 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.
carriage service	has the meaning given in section 7 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.
carrier licence	means a licence granted under section 56 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997.*
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. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	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.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
Decision Maker	the Minister for Communications.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.

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Term	Definition
First Nations Community	a geographic location, bounded by physical or legal boundaries, which is inhabited or intended to be inhabited predominantly (i.e. greater than 50% of usual residents) by First Nations peoples, with housing or infrastructure (power, water, sewerage) that is managed on a community basis. First Nations communities have populations of (but not limited to) 50 or more First Nations people[6].
grant	for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money[7] or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money[8] is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
grant opportunity	refers to 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.
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 CGRGs
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider (MNIP)	means a company that supplies a public telecommunications service within the meaning of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.
Mobile Network Operator (MNO)	means a company, other than an MNO, that provides communications infrastructure or facilities in Australia that support the provision of public mobile telecommunications services in Australia by an MNO.

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[6] This definition is based on ABS Release — 2901.0 — Census of Population and Housing: Census Dictionary, 2016 – Discrete Community.

[7] Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

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

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Term	Definition
Program	means the Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation Grant Program as described in these Grant Opportunity Guidelines
selection criteria	comprises eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value for money	value for money in this document refers to 'value for relevant money' which 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. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant 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 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 and the Arts or Commonwealth Officials administering the TDRI Program.

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Appendix A: Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale

The TRL scale is a tool for describing the maturity of a specific technology.

Technology Readiness Level		Description/evidence of achievement
Basic technology research	1. Basic principles observed and reported	This represents the lowest level of technology readiness. Scientific research begins to be translated into applied research and development (R&D). Examples might include paper studies of a technology's basic properties or experimental work that consists mainly of observations of the physical world. Supporting information includes published research or other references that identify the basic principles that underlie the technology.
	2. Technology concept and/or application formulated.	Once basic principles are observed, practical applications can be invented. Applications are speculative, and there may be no proof or detailed analysis to support the assumptions. Examples are still limited to analytical studies. Supporting information includes publications or other references that outline the application being considered and that provide analysis to support the concept.
		The step up from TRL 1 to TRL 2 moves the ideas from basic to applied research. Most of the work is analytical or paper studies with the emphasis on understanding the science better. Experimental work is designed to corroborate the basic scientific observations made during TRL 1 work.
Research to prove feasibility	3. Analytical and experimental critical function and/or proof of concept established	Analytical studies and laboratory-scale studies are designed to physically validate the predictions of separate elements of the technology. Supporting information includes results of laboratory tests performed to measure parameters of interest and comparison to analytical predictions for critical components.
		At TRL 3 experimental work is intended to verify that the concept works as expected. Components of the technology are validated, but there is no strong attempt to integrate the components into a complete system. Modelling and simulation may be used to complement physical experiments.

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Technology Readiness Level		Description/evidence of achievement
Technology development	4. Component and/or system validation in laboratory environment	Basic technological components are integrated to establish that the pieces will work together. This is relatively "low fidelity" compared with the eventual system. Examples include integration of ad hoc hardware in a laboratory setting and small-scale tests. Supporting information includes the results of the integrated experiments and estimates of how the experimental components and experimental tests differ from the expected system performance goals.
		TRL4-6 represents the bridge from scientific research to engineering, from development to demonstration. TRL 4 is the first step in determining whether the individual components will work together as a system.
	5. Component and/or system validation in relevant environment	The basic technological components are integrated so that the system configuration is similar to (matches) the final application in almost all respects. Supporting information includes results from the laboratory scale testing, analysis of the differences between the laboratory and eventual operating system/environment, and analysis of what the experimental results mean for the eventual operating system/environment.
		The major difference between TRL 4 and 5 is the increase in the fidelity of the system and the environment to the actual application. The system tested is almost prototypical. Scientific risk should be retired at the end of TRL 5

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Technology Readiness Level		Description/evidence of achievement
Technology demonstration	6. Engineering/pilot scale, similar (prototypical) system validation in relevant environment	Engineering-scale models or prototypes are tested in a relevant environment. This represents a major step up in a technology's demonstrated readiness. Supporting information includes results from the engineering-scale testing and analysis of the differences between the engineering scale, prototypical system/environment, and analysis of what the experimental results mean for the eventual operating system/environment.

TRL 6 begins true engineering development of the technology as an operational system. The major difference between TRL 5 and 6 is the step up from laboratory scale to engineering scale and the determination of scaling factors that will enable design of the final system. The engineering pilot scale demonstration should be capable of performing all the functions that will be required for the completed operational system. The operating environment for the testing should closely represent the actual operating environment. |
System commissioning	7. Full-scale, similar (prototypical) system demonstrated in relevant environment	This represents a major step up from TRL 6, requiring demonstration of an actual system prototype in a relevant environment. Final design is virtually complete. The goal of this stage is to retire any engineering and manufacturing risk
	8. Actual product and/or process completed and qualified through test and demonstration	The technology has been proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions. In almost all cases, this TRL represents the end of true system development. Examples include full-scale volume manufacturing of the end product.
Systems operation	9. System proven and ready for full deployment	The technology is in its final form and has been operating under the full range of expected operating conditions. It is ready for full deployment.

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