



Australian Government

Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

Business

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FACTSHEET

Regional Jobs and Investment Packages

The \$220 million Regional Jobs and Investment Packages (RJIP) supports the Australian Government's commitment to stimulate economic growth in Australian regions.

The program will drive economic growth and create jobs in ten pilot regions by investing in projects that will diversify regional economies, stimulate long term growth, deliver sustainable employment and enable applicants to enter new markets and sectors.

What does it offer?

A total of \$220 million is available through ten pilot regions.

The amount available to each region is up to

- [QLD - Tropical North Queensland](#) \$20 million
- [QLD - Bowen Basin](#) \$30 million
- [QLD - Wide Bay Burnett](#) \$20 million
- [NSW - North Coast](#) \$25 million
- [NSW - South Coast](#) \$20 million
- [SA - Upper Spencer Gulf](#) \$20 million
- [VIC - Goulburn Valley](#) \$20 million
- [VIC - Latrobe Valley](#) \$20 million
- [VIC - Geelong](#) \$20 million
- [TAS - Regional Tasmania](#) \$25 million

Maps showing the boundaries for each of these pilot regions are provided on the region's page on [business.gov.au](#).

Grant funding will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs. You are required to provide the remaining 50 per cent as co-funding towards your project. If you are a non-business applicant and you can demonstrate that you are experiencing exceptional circumstances, you may seek an exemption from the co-funding requirement. For further details regarding co-funding and the exceptional circumstances co-funding exemption refer to the [program guidelines](#).

Funding is available across three streams.

Local infrastructure

- The minimum grant amount is \$50,000.
- The maximum grant amount is limited to the available grant funding in your region.

Business innovation

- The minimum grant amount is \$50,000.
- The maximum grant amount is limited to the available grant funding in your region.

Skills and training

- There is no minimum grant amount.
- The maximum grant amount is limited to the available grant funding in your region.

How does it work?

The Minister will appoint a Local Planning Committee in each pilot region to develop a Local Investment Plan.

These plans will set out high-level strategic investment priorities in each region, based on an assessment of the region's competitive advantages and potential areas of growth.

To be competitive for funding you will need to demonstrate that your project aligns with your region's Local Investment Plan.

The program does not fund any projects that have already started. You must not start your project until you have an executed grant agreement in place.

To be eligible to apply under any grant funding stream your project must

- be located within an eligible RJIP region or you must be able to demonstrate that your project will directly benefit an RJIP region and align with the Local Investment Plan
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure

Local infrastructure projects

To be eligible your project must

- be a capital project or support a future capital project involving the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure
- have at least \$100,000 in eligible expenditure. (or have at least \$50,000 in eligible expenditure if you are granted an exceptional circumstances co-funding exemption)
- be ready to commence work within 12 weeks of executing a grant agreement.

Business innovation projects

To be eligible your project must

- expand or grow your business
- have at least \$100,000 in total eligible expenditure
- be ready to commence work within 12 weeks of executing a grant agreement.

Skills and training projects

To be eligible your project must

- deliver skills and training to learners other than your employees.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply you must have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply as follows.

Local infrastructure grants

To be eligible you must be one of the following entities

- a local government agency or body as defined in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*
- a not for profit organisation that is a legal entity and has been established for at least two years prior to the time of applying.

Business innovation grants

To be eligible you must be non-tax-exempt and one of the following entities

- a company, incorporated in Australia
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust.

Skills and training grants

To be eligible you must be one of the following entities

- a local government agency or body as defined in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*
- a not for profit organisation that is a legal entity and has been established for at least two years prior to the time of applying.

What activities are eligible?

Local infrastructure grants

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- purchase of materials
- external labour hire
- construction of new and upgraded infrastructure
- plant and equipment hire, lease or purchase directly related to the project
- external consulting costs directly related to the delivery of the construction
- feasibility study for a future capital project.

Business innovation grants

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- acquiring, installing, constructing and commissioning new machinery and equipment
- fit out, alterations /or extensions to existing premises related to the new machinery or equipment
- acquiring and developing new technology such as computer software and hardware
- nationally recognised, accredited or tailored training that is directly related to the project
- training required to navigate export barriers or access foreign markets
- expanding your business operations or opening new outlets in an eligible region
- moving your business from other areas of Australia to the eligible region. You must demonstrate that there are no significant negative impacts to the location you are moving from.
- feasibility studies to support new business activity.

Skills and training grants

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- tailored non-accredited training
- skill sets from nationally recognised training
- training that is accredited through state and territory systems
- activities that improve access to education or training and make it easier for learners in regional areas to complete their training or education
- feasibility studies relating to new training opportunities.

How will my application be assessed?

Grants will be awarded on a competitive merit basis. We will assess your application against the eligibility and merit criteria and all other eligible applications across the three streams within your region.

If eligible we will assess your application against the merit criteria. To be competitive you will need to address all of the following merit criteria.

- the extent to which your project addresses the Local Investment Plan's investment sectors and strategic priorities
- the level of net economic benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond the project period
- the value for money offered by your project
- your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project.

A Ministerial Panel decides which grants to approve taking into account our recommendations and the availability of grant funds.

What will I need to do if successful?

You will need to sign a grant agreement with the Australian Government.

- The grant agreement requires you to report quarterly on your completed activities.
- We will make quarterly payments based on your achievement of milestones, eligible expenditure incurred and our acceptance of satisfactory progress reports.
- Once you have completed the project you will have three months to submit your final report.

How do I apply?

You should read the [program guidelines](#) before you apply.

You can only apply during the opening period listed for your region and we will publish those dates on [business.gov.au](#). The opening dates will depend on when your region's Local Investment Plan is developed and published.

There is a separate application form for each stream. You can find the application forms on the region's page on [business.gov.au](#).

To apply you must

- complete the relevant online application form on [business.gov.au](#), including submission of all mandatory attachments
- address all eligibility and merit criteria
- submit your application by the advertised closing date.

Where can I find more information?

Visit [business.gov.au](#) or call **13 28 46**.