



**Australian Government**

# Building Better Regions Fund

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**Date**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science**

**Department of Infrastructure  
and Regional Development**

**Business**

**business.gov.au**  
**13 28 46**  
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# BBRF | Program Overview

## What is the Building Better Regions Fund

- \$297.7 million program.
- Grants up to \$10 million.
- Funding projects in regional Australia (outside the major capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra).
- The program is competitive and your application will be assessed against eligibility and merit criteria.



## Intended program outcomes

The program has been designed to achieve the following outcomes in regional and remote communities:

- Create jobs.
- Have a positive impact on economic activity, including opportunities for indigenous economic participation and supplier-use outcomes.
- Enhance community facilities.
- Enhance leadership capacity.
- Encourage community cohesion and sense of identity.





There are two streams of funding available under the program

## **Infrastructure Projects Stream**

- The Infrastructure Projects Stream will support projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas.

Funding available - \$20,000 to \$10 million

## **Community Investments Stream**

- The Community Investments Stream will fund community building activities including, but not limited to, new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, and leadership and capability building activities. These projects will deliver economic and social benefits to regional and remote communities.

Funding available - \$5,000 to \$10 million

## Applicant Eligibility

- Must have an ABN
- Must be either:
  - a local governing body or
  - a not for profit organisation
    - established for at least 2 years for the Infrastructure Projects stream.



## Project Eligibility

Eligible projects must be located in Australia and **outside** the Significant Urban Areas of **Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra.**

- Provide evidence confirming all co-funding (unless you have applied for an exemption).
- Have a project that can be completed by December 2019.
- For the Community Investment stream have a project that can be completed within 12 months.



## Project Location



- The project location is defined as where the project is undertaken.
- Project location informs:
  - eligibility in terms of excluded areas
  - remoteness which affects:
    - level of co-funding
    - the loading that will be applied to assessment scores.

The mapping tool for finding out the remoteness category of your project is available at [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au).

# BBRF | Mapping Tool

## Mapping Tool example

Australian Government  
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

### Building Better Regions Fund

Search...

#### BBRF Eligibility

##### Building Better Regions Fund Eligibility and Remoteness Classification

Eligibility	Included Area - Inner Regional
Remoteness classification	Inner Regional Australia
Project latitude and longitude	-34.99883,139.21127
Local Government Area	Murray Bridge (RCC)
Postcode	5254

Record your remoteness classification in your application form.

You will be required to contribute co-funding of at least \$1 for every \$1 of grant funding requested, unless:

- you are seeking a co-funding exemption due to exceptional circumstances or
- you are seeking less than \$20,000 grant funding in the Community Investment Stream.

Map showing BBRF Eligibility areas in South Australia. Eligible areas are highlighted in red/orange, including Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker, and parts of the Barossa and Flinders Ranges. Other regions are shown in blue.

Layers: Road, BBRF Eligibility

Scale: 10km

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BBRF Program Guidelines



## What is meant by co-funding

- Co-funding is the cash contribution (excluding in-kind contributions) from you or sources other than the Commonwealth.
- Projects classified as remote or very remote attract a 3:1 ratio of co-funding.
- All other classifications attract a 1:1 ratio of co-funding.
- Where there is other Commonwealth funding for your project the total Commonwealth funding cannot exceed the 1:1 or 3:1 ratio.



## Exceptional Circumstances Co-funding Exemption

- You may qualify for co-funding exemption if you can demonstrate that you have exceptional circumstances that prevent you from meeting the co-funding requirement.
- Exceptional circumstances may include:
  - drought and/or disaster declaration
  - limited financial capacity of the local council
  - impact of industry decline
  - significant recent change in population or community demographics
  - other exceptional circumstances.
- The Ministerial Panel will consider requests for exemption, **if the request is not granted then the application will be ineligible.**

## Infrastructure Projects Stream Overview

- Supports projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas.
- Your project will need to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the previous slides as well as:
  - Being ready to start within 12 weeks of signing the grant agreement
  - Complying with special regulatory requirements (Building Code and WHS Scheme)
  - Have not already started or have contracts already in place at the time of the application.



## Eligible Projects and Activities

### Your project must be:

- construction of new infrastructure
- the upgrade or an extension of existing infrastructure
- the replacement of existing infrastructure will only be eligible where you can demonstrate significant increase in benefit.



### Eligible activities may include:

- purchase of materials
- external labour hire
- plant and equipment hire
- external consulting costs directly related to the delivery of the project.

You can only spend funds on eligible activities directly related to the project.

## Ineligible Activities

### Ineligible activities may include:

- purchase of land or existing infrastructure
- repair or replacement of existing infrastructure
- purchase and installation of manufacturing equipment and furniture
- ongoing operating costs including utilities and staffing
- soft infrastructure
- payment of salaries for the applicant's employees
- project overhead items including office equipment, vehicles or mobile capital equipment
- business case development and feasibility studies.

## Community Investments Stream Overview

- Will fund community-building activities including, but not limited to, new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, and leadership and capability building activities. These projects will deliver economic and social benefits to regional and remote communities.
- Eligibility is the same as the Infrastructure Projects stream with the following exceptions:
  - projects must be completed within 12 months of executing a grant agreement
  - not-for-profit organisations do not have to be established for 2 years
  - applicants with a total project value of less than \$20,000 do not have to provide any co-funding
  - projects with no physical location must nominate a project location based on where the majority of the benefits will flow.

## Eligible Activities

- **Local events and activities**

- arts and culture events
- community and public events
- business events
- community sporting events
- events or activities which attract tourists and visitors to a region.



- **Strategic planning**

- regional skills audits
- research projects to support regional development strategic plans
- collecting socio-economic information
- plan development costs

- **Regional leadership and capability**

- leadership courses
- participation and community building measures for young people
- participation in activities to improve local business and industry leadership capability

## Ineligible Activities

- **Local events and activities**
  - activities where the main benefit is intended to go to only one sector or group within the wider community
  - fundraising events
  - events for political/lobby groups
  - private events
- **Strategic planning**
  - land use planning
  - service delivery planning
  - capital funding for research centres
  - feasibility studies or benefit-cost analysis for specific projects, including infrastructure development
- **Regional leadership and capability**
  - vocational education and training (vet)
  - apprenticeships
  - higher education qualifications
  - funding education and training providers
  - funding for staff wages or leadership positions within an organisation.





## Merit Criteria

### There are 4 merit criteria

1. Economic benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond **the**
  - **construction phase** for the Infrastructure Projects stream (15 point)
  - **project period** for the Community Investments stream (15 points)
2. Social benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond **the**
  - **construction phase** for the Infrastructure Projects stream (10 points)
  - **project period** for the Community Investments stream(10 points)
3. Value for money offered by your project (5 points)
4. Your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project (5 points)

Funding decisions are made by the Ministerial panel and applicants will be advised of the outcome in writing.



## Merit Criterion One – Economic Benefit

The economic benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond the construction phase/project period (15 points)

Examples of how your project could demonstrate these economic benefits include:

- a) increasing the number or value of jobs, new businesses or the production of goods and services in the region (this includes direct and indirect opportunities created through the project)
- b) providing opportunities for growth in existing sectors, e.g. tourism, agriculture, manufacturing
- c) the use of local suppliers and goods
- d) increasing efficiency of the transport system or service delivery
- e) increasing Indigenous economic participation – including Indigenous employment and supplier-use outcomes
- f) the degree to which the project delivers benefits beyond the construction phase/project period.



## Merit Criterion Two – Social Benefit

The social benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond the construction phase/project period (10 points)

Examples of how your project could demonstrate social benefits:

- a) making a region a more attractive place to live
- b) improving community connections and social inclusion
- c) supporting or protecting local heritage and culture
- d) strengthening community institutions, governance and leadership capacity
- e) increasing community volunteering
- f) the degree to which the project delivers benefits beyond the construction phase/project period
- g) addresses disadvantage within the community
- h) Increasing community participation in local decision making (CI Stream).



## Merit Criterion Three – Value for money

### The value for money offered by your project (5 points)

You may demonstrate the value for money through identifying:

- a) the extent to which the project leverages additional funding (this includes cash contributions above the co-funding requirement and in-kind contributions)
- b) the extent to which the project leverages additional partnerships
- c) the likelihood of the project going ahead without the grant funding. Explain how the grant will impact the project in terms of size, timing and reach.



## Merit Criterion Four – Project delivery

**Your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project (5 points).**

You may demonstrate this through identifying:

- a) your readiness to commence the project with appropriate approvals planned for or in place
- b) your track record with similar projects including managing similar grant funding
- c) your access to people with the right skills and experience
- d) your access to infrastructure, capital equipment, technology, intellectual property
- e) how you will operate and maintain the infrastructure and benefits of the project
- f) a detailed Project Management Plan which addresses project:
  - scope
  - implementation methodology and how you will manage project dependencies
  - timeframes
  - budget/costing
  - risk.

# BBRF | How to attach documents for the Infrastructure Projects Stream

Attachments are necessary to determine everything from eligibility to your ability to meet your co-funding requirements

- Applicants will need to supply mandatory attachments with their application.
- To attach documents you will need to create a secure file on Microsoft 365. The form will take you to Microsoft 365 to upload your attachments.
- If you don't have a Microsoft 365 account you can create one for free.
- It is important to make sure all the attachments for your application are uploaded as your application could be ineligible without them.
- If you need any help you can call the Contact Centre on 13 28 46.

# BBRF | How to attach documents for the Community Investments Stream

Attachments are necessary to determine everything from eligibility to your ability to meet your co-funding requirements

- Applicants will need to supply mandatory attachments with their application.
- The Community Investment Stream will have all of the attachments uploaded within the smart form.



The image shows a user interface for uploading an attachment. It features a label 'Attachment' above a text input field. Inside the input field, there is a small circular icon with an upward-pointing arrow. Below the input field is a prominent blue button with the text 'Click to Upload'.



Applications will only be accepted during a funding round.

Applicants can submit two applications per round per stream.

Joint applications are permitted.

To apply, you must:

- complete the online application form at **business.gov.au**
- provide all information (including mandatory attachments) required to assess the application.

If you are experiencing difficulties submitting an application you can call the Contact Centre on 13 28 46 for assistance.



# BBRF | When can you apply

- **Infrastructure Projects stream** opened on **18 January 2017** and closes **5.00pm** local time on **28 February 2017**.
- **Community Investments stream** opened on **18 January 2017** and closes **5.00pm** local time on **31 March 2017**.
- Late applications cannot be accepted and will be deemed ineligible.



# Further information on BBRF

For further information please see.....

- [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)
- The Contact Centre on 13 28 46.
- Your local RDA on ....
- If you are not from this region you can find your local RDA at [www.rda.gov.au](http://www.rda.gov.au).



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Questions

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