

Building our Regions

Building our Regions

Benefits Assessment Template and Guidance Notes

This template is to be used by applicants for a project where the total project cost is less than \$500,000

Contents:

- Benefits Assessment template
- Instructions and guidelines
- An example of Benefits Assessment

Building our Regions – Benefits Assessment

This Benefits Assessment template should be used for projects with the total costs of less than \$500,000. Where possible, please quantify benefits of the project (Column 3 of the table of Expected benefits of the project).

See the example of Benefits Assessment below the template.

If unsure whether your project should use a Benefits Assessment or CBA template, please call the Economic and Commercial Analysis team on (07) 345 27348.

Project details

Project name:			
Council:			
Total project cost:	\$	Sought Building our Regions funding:	\$

Expected benefits of the project

Economic Benefits (including new jobs)		
Guidelines and examples of benefits	List and discuss benefits	Quantify benefits (where possible)
<p>Will the project contribute to the regional economy through, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly support new jobs • Increase revenue to the Council • Impact on agriculture • Attract tourists • Positive impact on other industries <p>Other economic benefits may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract people to the region • Attract more investment • Time travel savings (transport) and vehicle maintenance costs • Improve flow and volume of goods transported • Improve business confidence 	<p>Please use this space to list and discuss any expected benefits</p>	<p>Please use this space to provide quantified impacts of the projects, including explanation of assumptions and sources of information, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If project is likely to attract people to the region, how many? • How many additional tourists the project may bring every year? • How many businesses (and what kind) are likely to benefit from the project (during construction and after completion)? • How much additional revenue is Council likely to collect as a result of this project going ahead? • If agriculture is likely to benefit, estimate volumes of additional production and/or hectares of land saved. • Estimated number of new direct jobs (FTE) supported during the construction phase and on an on-going basis.
Social and community		
<p>Main beneficiaries of the project (for example: families, school children, senior citizens, other community groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project likely to improve liveability and community satisfaction? • Alleviate community distress during flood • Improve community confidence • Households likely to benefit from the project 		<p>Describe local community and discuss community groups expected to benefit from project, including explanation of assumptions and sources of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many households in the region are likely to benefit? • How many students or senior citizens? • How many members, if any, in other community groups?

Improvement in health and well being		
Guidelines and examples of benefits	List and discuss project benefits	Quantify benefits (where possible)
<p>Public health and safety benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidents avoided (fatalities and injuries prevented) • Improved public safety during flood events • Improved water quality • Disease prevention as a benefit of water/sewerage infrastructure • Landfill projects likely to provide similar benefits • Other public safety benefits (like keeping children off the streets) 	<p><i>Please use this space to list and discuss expected benefits</i></p>	<p><i>Use available statistics to illustrate potential impact of the project, and accidents that the project may help to prevent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Historical statistics of road accidents and reported near-misses.</i> • <i>For flood mitigation projects use statistics of flood related accidents by motorists and pedestrians.</i> • <i>Number of households and businesses affected in past flooding events.</i> • <i>Estimate numbers of households and business spared from flooding after the project is completed.</i>
Education		
<p>Will local students benefit from the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better and safer facilities or access to such facilities • Increased capacity to attract/ meet growing demand • Increased capacity for extracurricular activities at school • Does the project help create future opportunities for local students 		<p><i>Use available information about local student population affected by the project:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of primary school students.</i> • <i>Number of high school students.</i>
Recreational and environmental		
<p>Describe expected improvements in life style and environmental benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe community likely to benefit from the recreational facility or public amenities • Is the project saving productive agricultural land? • Is the project improving quality of water in local rivers, lakes etc.? • Is the project providing more choices in activities/lifestyle for local community, including youth and children? 		<p><i>If this is a community hall, park, swimming pool or sporting grounds:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the capacity of the venue?</i> • <i>How many people and what groups are likely to use it?</i> • <i>How frequently will community/sporting events be held at the venue?</i> • <i>Is the project likely to attract visitors from outside of the town/region?</i>

To assist project proponents, the pages below contain an example of Benefits Assessment (a flood mitigation project is used)

Building our Regions – Benefits Assessment example

This Benefits Assessment template should be used for projects with the total costs of less than \$500,000.

Where possible, please quantify benefits of the project (Column 3 of the table of Expected benefits of the project).

This example describes expected benefits of a hypothetical flood mitigation project submitted by the XYZ Regional Council. The project involves minor upgrades and improvements to the existing drainage infrastructure. When completed, the project will help to reduce frequency and severity of flooding of the centre of town. Inadequate drainage infrastructure led to frequent flooding of the intersection ABC obstructing access to some homes and businesses in the past. During severe flood events some households, businesses and community facilities were inundated causing substantial losses to the community. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$450,000, of which \$200,000 is sought from the State government under the Building our Regions program.

If unsure whether your project should use a Benefits Assessment or CBA template, please call the Economic and Commercial Analysis team on (07) 345 27348.

Pink shaded boxes in this example indicate entries to be completed by council in the template above (pages 1-3 of this document)

Project details *(an example only)*

Project name:	Improved drainage - upgrades to culvert and channel works at XYZ		
Council:	XYZ Regional Council		
Total project cost:	\$450,000	Sought Building our Regions funding:	\$200,000

To assist project proponents, the tables below contain an example of Benefits Assessment (a flood mitigation project is used)

Expected benefits of the project (an example only)

Economic benefits (including new jobs)		
Guidelines and examples of benefits	List and discuss benefits	Quantify benefits (where possible)
<p>Will the project contribute to regional economy through, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly support new jobs • Increase revenue to the Council • Impact on agriculture • Attract tourists • Positive impact on other industries <p>Other economic benefits may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract people to the region • Attract more investment • Time travel savings (transport) and vehicle maintenance costs • Improve flow and volume of goods transported • Improve business confidence 	<p><i>Please use this space to list and discuss any expected benefits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This small project will not directly support any new jobs. • The project will contribute to regional economic growth as it will provide better flood management. • Better access to the region and improved flood immunity may encourage existing business to invest and may attract new business to the region, and as a result more jobs will be created in the region. • This in turn may encourage more people to move permanently to the region increasing local population. • As a result, Council's revenue is likely to increase in the future. • The new infrastructure will prevent losses to agricultural crops and livestock during future flooding events. • Better access to the region may attract more tourists. • Possible reductions to insurance premiums (better flood immunity) may benefit local business and households. 	<p><i>Please use this space to provide quantified impacts of the projects, for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current population is estimated at around 5,000 (2012) and there are 1,500 households in the region. • Out of 150 businesses in the region, around 10% were affected by the most recent flood (2011). The total losses were estimated at \$300,000. • 80 households reported losses during the most recent flood. • It is estimated that 2,000 tourists visit the region every year. Improved flood immunity during summer holidays may encourage more visitors. • It is expected that 2 to 5 local businesses will be contracted during the construction phase of the project. • Local farmers reported that in excess of 2,000ha of crops were inundated during the most recent flood. The total losses were estimated at \$0.5 million.
Social and community		
<p>Main beneficiaries of the project (for example: families, school children, senior citizens, other community groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project likely to improve liveability and community satisfaction? • Alleviate community distress during flood • Improve community confidence • Households likely to benefit from the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better flood immunity will definitely improve liveability of the region and will encourage more people to settle here and businesses to hire. • Connectivity of the region with the other centres will be improved during flood events giving community more confidence. • The project will alleviate distress of local businesses and households associated with frequent flooding and material losses. 	<p><i>Estimate and discuss the community groups expected to benefit from project:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimated numbers of businesses, farms and households affected by the recent flood event (therefore likely to benefit from the project) are provided above.

This is an example only

Improvement in health and well being		
Guidelines and examples of benefits	List and discuss project benefits	Quantify benefits (where possible)
<p>Public health and safety benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidents avoided (fatalities and injuries prevented) • Improved public safety during flood events • Improved water quality • Disease prevention as a benefit of water/sewerage infrastructure • Landfill projects likely to provide similar benefits • Other public safety benefits (like keeping children off the streets) 	<p><i>Please use this space to list and discuss any expected benefits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety during significant flood events for motorists, pedestrians and general population. • Reduced risk of diseases transmitted by mosquitos if drainage improved and flooding less extensive. 	<p><i>Use available statistics to illustrate potential impact of the project, and accidents that the project may help to prevent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the most recent floods, there were 41 calls to the local SES for assistance, of which 33 were from households and 8 from businesses. • There were two incidents where motorists at risk needed to be rescued from submerged vehicles.
Education		
<p>Will the project benefit for local students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better and safer facilities or access to such facilities • Increased capacity to attract/ meet growing demand • Increased capacity for extracurricular activities at school • Does the project help creating future opportunities for local students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local school students will have a safer and uninterrupted access to school during flood events 	<p><i>Use available statistics about local student population affected by the project:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are around 200 students in the local primary school.
Recreational and environmental		
<p>Describe expected improvements in life style and environmental benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe community likely to benefit from the recreational facility or public amenities • Is the project saving productive agricultural land? • Is the project improving quality of water in local rivers, lakes etc.? • Is the project providing more choices in activities/lifestyle for local community, including youth and children? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer and uninterrupted access to the local park and sporting grounds, which were often inundated during past flood events. • Both the park and sporting grounds are popular with the local community as they provide a relatively safe environment for school children and youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 1,500 households within the catchment area. Some 80 households are expected to benefit from this project.