



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities



Australian Government

A graphic featuring silhouettes of two construction workers in the foreground. One worker is pointing upwards. In the background, there are silhouettes of construction cranes and a map of Australia with blue dots indicating various locations. The overall color scheme is blue and white.

## REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

Creating jobs and unlocking economic opportunities across regional Australia

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [GRANTS.GOV.AU](http://GRANTS.GOV.AU)

Presented by: Regional Development  
Australia Townsville & North West  
Queensland

## What is the Regional Growth Fund (RGF)

RGF will provide \$272.2 million towards transformational projects which support long term economic growth and create jobs in regions, including those undergoing structural change.

# RGF – What does it offer

RGF will provide funding of at least \$10 million for capital works that will deliver significant ongoing economic benefits in regional Australia.

A project may be a Package of Works, i.e. a number of projects that complement each other and deliver the objectives of RGF.

There is only one round of RGF.

# RGF – HOW TO APPLY

What is the two stage process?

RGF has a two stage process for the selection of projects.

Stage One is competitive, with applicants submitting an Initial Application for eligibility and merit criteria assessment.

Stage Two is for the submission of a Full Business Case.

# RGF – HOW TO APPLY

## Why are there two stages for applications?

Initial Applications will provide the information required for the selection of projects that best deliver the objectives of the program.

Applicants can submit an Initial Application without spending the time and resources to develop a Full Business Case.

Applicants do not need to confirm additional contributions at the time of Initial Application, but confirmation of additional contributions **are** required when a Full Business Case is submitted.

# RGF – INITIAL APPLICATIONS

## What does the Initial Application cover?

Initial Applications will provide information for an eligibility and merit criterial assessment.

This is the competitive stage of RGF.

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities will only contact you during this stage to clarify information provided.

The Department will not seek or accept additional information.

## What are the Eligibility Requirements for RGF?

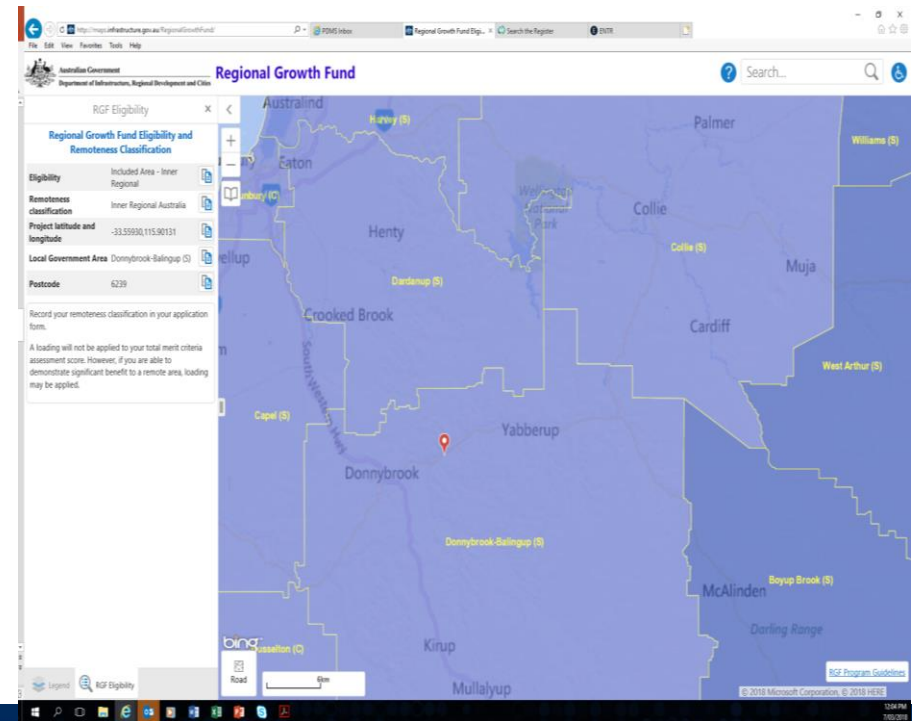
There are ten eligibility requirements for RGF. The Program Guidelines should be referred to ensure you meet the requirements. Here is a summary of eligibility for RGF.

Where the project must benefit?

Projects must be located in an eligible area, or the ongoing economic benefits must flow directly into an eligible area.

A mapping tool is available to assist in identifying eligible areas and project latitude and longitude

<http://maps.infrastructure.gov.au/RegionalGrowthFund/>



# RGF – ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply under RGF?

Applicants must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN), and be one of the following entities:

- a private sector business
- a State or Territory Government
- a local governing body
- a not-for-profit organisation that has been established for at least two years.

Additional contributions?

Additional contributions can be from the applicant or other organisations and must be a minimum of 50 percent of the total cash project cost. Additional contributions do not need to be confirmed at Initial Application but must be confirm with the Full Business Case.



# RGF – ELIGIBILITY

What are eligible projects?

Projects must be for 'common-use' infrastructure or private use infrastructure that will deliver significant and sustainable benefits to the region by creating jobs and flow-on benefits to the economy.

Projects must be a capital project involving the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or an extension of existing infrastructure.

Projects may be a number of strategically linked projects which together form a Package of Works that will deliver economic benefits to a region or regions.

Projects must be ready to **commence within 12 weeks** of executing the Grant Agreement.

Projects must be acquitted by 30 June 2022.

# RGF – ELIGIBILITY

## What **can** the grant money be used for?

- purchase of materials
- purchase of land or existing infrastructure where the purchase is not the sole activity of the project
- external labour hire
- plant and equipment hire
- construction activities
- external consulting costs directly related to the delivery of the construction

## What **can't** the grant money be used for?

- repair or replacement of existing infrastructure where there is no demonstrated significant increase in benefit
- ongoing operating costs including utilities and staffing
- business case development and feasibility studies
- soft infrastructure, including computer software or hardware that is not an integral part of the funded capital project
- project overhead items including office equipment, vehicles or mobile capital equipment (eg, trucks and earthmoving equipment and the applicant's internal plant operating costs)

# RGF – ELIGIBILITY

Additional eligibility requirements:

- All relevant mandatory attachments must be submitted
- Applicants must complete the legal declaration, including that you can comply with special regulatory requirements

Before you submit, please ensure that you have read and understood the Program Guidelines and checked your organisation and project eligibility.

## What are the Merit Criteria for RGF?

Whilst it is not mandatory to provide supporting documents, Initial Applications with quantifiable evidence supporting claims against the merit criteria may be rated higher.

There are three merit criteria.

### **Merit criterion 1 – Create Jobs (20 points)**

Job creation as a result of your project including direct employees during and post construction and indirect employees post construction

### **Merit criterion 2 – Drive Economic Growth (20 points)**

The economic benefit your project will deliver to the region during and beyond the construction phase

### **Merit criterion 3 – Build Stronger Regional Communities (10 points)**

How your project will increase a regional community's resilience

# RGF – INITIAL APPLICATION DECISIONS

## What happens after the Initial Application stage?

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities will undertake an eligibility and merit criteria assessment and make recommendations to the Ministerial Panel.

The Ministerial Panel will review recommendations and select projects, in consultation with the Investment, Infrastructure and Innovation Committee of Cabinet (IIIC) or Cabinet, to be invited to submit a Full Business Case.

# RGF – FULL BUSINESS CASE

## Submitting a Full Business Case

Only projects selected by the Ministerial Panel will be asked to submit a Full Business Case.

Applicants will have three months to submit the Full Business Case from the date of being invited to submit.

If a project does not proceed through the Full Business Case stage, another project from the Initial Application stage will be invited to submit a Full Business Case.

# RGF – ROLE OF RDAs

## How can we help you?

RDAs have extensive experience in working with Government.

RDAs have an important role in providing advice and assistance in submitting an Initial Application.

RDAs are able to review your Initial Application and provide comments on how to strengthen your Initial Application.

RDAs can assist in identifying projects or Packages of Works that may be suitable for submission to RGF.

RDAs can provide advice on how additional contributions might be sourced.

## Where can you get help?

RGF Program Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions

You can seek assistance through the RDA. (RDAs can insert individual RDA contact details)

You can contact the RGF HelpDesk on:

1800 044 938

or at

[rgf@regional.gov.au](mailto:rgf@regional.gov.au)