

Building our Regions Round 6 Planning projects

Frequently asked Questions

1. Why is this round focussed on water and sewerage-related infrastructure projects?

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water administers the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*, which provides the framework for regulating water service provider performance, and for providing recycled water and drinking water quality. In Queensland, water and sewerage services are delivered to towns and cities predominantly by Local Governments. There are 75 service providers across the State, with 67 of these located outside of South East Queensland, each with varying capacity and capability to deliver these essential services. This round of Building our Regions will support the delivery of fit for place and fit for purpose water supply and sewerage solutions in regional communities to improve water security, enhance drinking water quality and help to improve business sustainability of Queensland's regional water service providers. This round also aims to support jobs in manufacturing and technology and underpin the social, economic, and environmental well-being of regional communities.

2. Who is eligible to apply for the Planning projects?

Planning projects are restricted to Small and Very Small service providers located outside of South East Queensland. These service providers deliver water and sewerage services in regional and remote Queensland and have up to 10,000 connections.

3. What kinds of projects are eligible?

Planning projects – eligible local governments that fall into the Small and Very Small Service Provider Fund may submit applications for planning projects to develop:

- a final/detailed construction/engineering design for an *eligible construction project type*;
- a project business case (including associated supporting design specifications and documentation) for an eligible construction project type to provide better clarity about investment decisions; or
- projects that will update or further develop existing detailed designs or project business cases.

For the purposes of planning projects, *eligible construction project types* are:

- water supply security (including recycled water for non-potable uses)
- water loss mitigation
- water quality improvement
- water for use in hydrogen projects or other priority manufacturing sectors or
- sewage collection and treatment

4. What funding is available?

\$12 million has been provisionally allocated for planning projects.

5. How much funding can applicants apply for?

Small and Very Small service providers can apply for up to \$300,000 for planning projects.

6. Are co-contributions required?

There are no mandatory co-contributions although voluntary contributions are encouraged.

It should be noted that Building our Regions funding may only be used to reimburse eligible project costs. Any ineligible projects costs must be funded by the applicant or a third-party contributor. If the project scope will include any ineligible costs, applicants should identify these and ensure there are sufficient financial co-contributions to cover them.

7. Can applicants submit more than one application?

Yes, if applicants determine that they have more than one eligible project, they are able to submit multiple applications. However, applicants should consider their capacity to successfully deliver multiple projects within program timeframes if they seek funding for more than one project. Applicants who submit multiple projects are also expected to nominate their priority.

8. What if a proposed project crosses local government boundaries or involves two or more partners?

Regional collaboration is encouraged. Eligible applicants may partner with other local governments, to seek funding for a mutually beneficial project. In such cases, one eligible local government must be identified as the lead partner and take responsibility for contract management and project delivery.

9. The eGrants system includes fields for identifying jobs associated with applications. How should jobs for Planning projects be represented?

As there will be no construction jobs associated with proposed planning projects, and no ongoing jobs resulting from the project, please include a zero where jobs numbers are requested.

10. The eGrants system includes fields for identifying the project location. How should project location for Planning projects be represented?

If a proposed planning project does not yet have a project location identified, please include the location details for the council's main office.