

Building our Regions Round 6

Expressions of Interest

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?

The Building our Regions program has a regional focus. Round 6 is restricted to Queensland local governments (and Weipa Town Authority) located outside of South East Queensland.

Eligible applicants have been allocated to one of three categories based on water service provider size as determined by number of connections. Refer to Appendix 1 of the Program Guidelines to confirm the eligibility of a local government and its category. The three funds are detailed below:

- Large Service Provider Fund – these service providers deliver water and sewerage services in Regional Queensland, have between 25,000 and 100,000 connections, and are mainly located along Queensland's east coast.
- Medium Service Provider Fund – these service providers deliver water and sewerage services in Regional Queensland, have between 10,000 and 25,000 connections, and are located along the east coast as well as inland.
- Small and Very Small Service Provider Fund – these service providers deliver water and sewerage services in regional and remote Queensland, have up to 10,000 connections.

3. What kinds of projects are eligible?

Funding through Round 6 is available for construction projects and planning projects.

- Construction projects – all eligible local governments may submit applications for the construction of water supply or sewerage system infrastructure projects that address:
 - 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

Appendix 5 of the Program Guidelines provides examples of eligible construction project types.

- 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.

4. What funding is available?

Building our Regions Round 6 has \$70 million available through one competitive funding Round. Funding has been provisionally allocated to the three funds as follows:

- Large Service Provider Fund – \$12 million
- Medium Service Provider Fund – \$10 million
- Small and Very Small Service Provider Fund – \$48 million
 - \$12 million of this \$48 million will be provisionally allocated for planning projects.

Any funds not allocated to successful applications in a particular category will be made available to projects in the other categories.

5. How much funding can applicants apply for?

Eligible applicants can apply for:

- between \$100,000 and \$2 million for construction projects.
- up to \$300,000 for planning projects.

6. Are financial co-contributions required?

Different levels of financial co-contributions are required depending on the Fund an eligible local government has been allocated to.

- Large Service Provider Fund – applications must include financial co-contributions of at least 60% of the estimated total project cost
- Medium Service Provider Fund – applications must include financial co-contributions of at least 50% of the estimated total project cost
- Small and Very Small Service Provider Fund – there are no mandatory co-contributions although voluntary contributions are encouraged. This applies to both construction and planning projects.

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. What timeframes apply to the construction of approved projects?

Round 6 construction projects must be able to commence construction no later than 15 February 2023.

8. 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.

9. 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.

