



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Grid Enhancing Technologies Program

Opening date:	15 July 2025
Closing date and time:	5:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on 11 August 2025 Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
Date guidelines released:	18 June 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1. Grid Enhancing Technologies Program processes

The Grid Enhancing Technologies program (the program) is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

The program contributes to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Outcome 1: Energy (Support reliable, secure and affordable energy). Design and implementation is in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We/DISR publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form, addressing all the eligibility and assessment criteria in order for your application to be considered.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. The Committee assess eligible applications against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money and compare it to other eligible applications.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You complete the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Grid Enhancing Technologies Program

DCCEEW will evaluate the specific grant activity and Grid Enhancing Technologies program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Grid Enhancing Technologies program grants. You should read this document carefully before applying. It sets out:

- the objectives and intended outcomes of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR) on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Key terms used in these guidelines are defined in the glossary at section 0.

2. About the grant program

The Grid Enhancing Technologies program (the program) provides up to \$30m in competitive grant funding over four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29.

The program is part of DCCEEW's Program 1.2 which aims to deliver secure, reliable and affordable energy to consumers by accelerating the development, trialling and application of grid enhancing technologies, to maximise capacity and utilisation of existing infrastructure in Australian electricity networks. It supports progress to reach 82 per cent of Australia's energy generated by renewable energy resources by 2030. It contributes to Australia achieving 43 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Grid enhancing technologies include network equipment, hardware and software solutions, analytical tools and techniques, sensors, devices and systems, battery firming and virtual transmission, and demand response. These technologies can be leveraged further by advances in digitisation, simulation and modelling, along with application of data and artificial intelligence capabilities.

2.1. Program objectives

The objective of the program is to accelerate the uptake and deployment of grid enhancing technologies on Australia's electricity networks by:

- demonstrating and testing the effectiveness of grid enhancing technologies being applied to Australian electricity networks
- identifying costs and benefits of key technologies and pathways for wider application in Australian electricity networks.

2.2. Program intended outcomes

The intended outcome of the program is to apply grid enhancing technology to Australia's electricity network infrastructure resulting in:

- greater utilisation and productivity of existing network infrastructure allowing more renewable energy to flow to consumers more rapidly, helping put downward pressure on wholesale power prices
- addressing congestion "black spots" in existing networks reducing curtailment of renewable energy generation, while improving reliability and capacity within and at the edges of the grid

- reducing or delaying the need for additional network infrastructure lowering the network cost component of energy bills, with lower impact on the environment and communities hosting infrastructure relative to greenfield transmission
- improving network visibility and control, leading to enhanced resilience and safety for bushfire, extreme weather events, cyber security and other system security, reliability and recovery benefits.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#)¹.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$30 million over 2025-26 to 2028-29 for the program.

- The minimum grant amount is \$250,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$5 million.

The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible expenditure.

You are responsible for the remaining eligible and ineligible project costs.

Any additional contributions to your project can be cash and/or in-kind.

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another Commonwealth Government grant.

You can apply for a grant for your project under more than one Commonwealth program, but if your application is successful, you must choose either the Grid Enhancing Technologies grant or the other Commonwealth grant.

3.2. Project period

The project period will be defined in the grant agreement.

You must complete your project by 31 March 2029.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria at the time you lodge your application.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for GST
- be non-income tax exempt

and be one of the following entities:

- an entity incorporated in Australia
- a university

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

- a publicly funded research organisation (PFRO) as defined in section 0
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government body (including government business enterprises).

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead organisation who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply. For further information on joint applications, refer to section 7.2.

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

4.2. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- any organisation not included in section 4.1
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- an individual
- a Regional Development Australia Committee
- an unincorporated association
- a partnership
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust).

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your project must be aimed at delivering benefits for Australian energy consumers by accelerating the development, trialling and application of grid enhancing technologies in electricity networks.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the program objectives and outcomes under section 2 and can include but are not limited to projects that:

- test and demonstrate the effectiveness of a range of technologies that support Australian electricity networks
- identify costs and benefits of key technologies and pathways for wider application in Australian electricity networks.

5.2. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

Expenditure will only be eligible where it contributes to the objectives and intended outcomes of the program under section 2 and eligible activities under section 5.1.

For guidance on eligible expenditure, refer to Appendix A.

We may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate (who is a Manager within the department with responsibility for administering the program) makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred by you for required project activities.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

You may elect to commence your project from the date we notify you that your application is successful. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. The Commonwealth will not be liable, and should not be held out as being liable, for any activities undertaken before the grant agreement is executed.

5.3. What the grant money cannot be used for

For guidance on ineligible expenditure guidance, refer to Appendix B.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all assessment criteria in your application. The Committee will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion. The sub-criterion are individually weighted, as indicated.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. The detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide evidence to support your answers. The application form displays character limits for each response.

We will only award funding to applications that score at least 50 per cent against each assessment criterion.

6.1. Assessment criterion 1

Project alignment with program objectives and intended outcomes (40 points)

This criterion is asking you to identify the specific and measurable impacts of the project on the network on which the technology will be deployed. You should focus on the immediate and predicted direct benefits of implementing the project on an electricity network.

You should demonstrate this through identifying how the project will:

- a. optimise existing network infrastructure to achieve benefits for consumers such as lower costs for consumers, increased network capacity and renewable energy penetration, and/or improved energy security and reliability **(25 points)**.

This could include (but is not limited to) the impact of the project on:

- reduction in consumer bills in dollars
- network capacity in megawatts
- congestion reduction in percentage and megawatt terms

- reduced curtailment and potential additional renewable energy flow in percentage and megawatt terms
 - delaying or deferring existing planned network upgrades in months or years
 - reduced impact on communities hosting network infrastructure
 - security and reliability including improved resilience to extreme weather events, bushfire and cyber threats, along with any system recovery and planned maintenance benefits.
- b. be additional to your existing activities and deliver benefits above what would have been expected without the grant **(15 points)**.

6.2. Assessment criterion 2

Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (20 points)

This criterion seeks evidence of your ability to effectively and efficiently deliver the proposed project. You should focus your response on how you will leverage your organisation's expertise, and that of your partners, to deliver the proposed project.

You should demonstrate this by identifying how you intend to deliver the project and achieve its outcomes within the grant period, including evidence of:

- a. the required financial, technical and other resources such as access to network infrastructure that will be applied to the project **(8 points)**
- b. the relevant skills, capabilities and experience within the lead organisation and/or the project partners that will be applied to the project **(8 points)**
- c. your plan to manage and monitor the project and mitigate risks (including where relevant, national and cyber security risks) **(4 points)**.

6.3. Assessment criterion 3

Outcomes of the project (40 points)

This criterion is focussed on the potential of the project to scale and asks you to consider what benefits could arise should it be more widely deployed. Responses should build on the responses given to criterion one and explore how the benefits can be widely realised across electricity networks generally.

You should demonstrate this through:

- a. evidencing how the project will generate on the network optimisation solution from real world application in the Australian context, including information on costs and benefits, performance and application **(15 points)**
- b. describing how you will apply project outcomes and evidence to effectively scale up the solution in Australian electricity network infrastructure, including what the potential benefits to consumers are at greater scale **(15 points)**
- c. demonstrating a pathway to achieving (a) and (b) above including **(10 points)**:
 - the timeframe and further work needed to scale up the solution
 - a plan for leveraging existing and/or additional funding
 - a plan for applying and/or sharing project information and expertise to drive further uptake in Australian networks.

7. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample [application form](#) and the sample [grant agreement](#) published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and attach detailed evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#).

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we may contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility or merit. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application:

- letters of support from each project partner
- a project plan
- a project budget (that includes all project income sources and expenditure)
- a risk management plan
- detailed evidence that supports assessment criteria responses (where applicable).

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. Individual file sizes cannot be greater than 2MB, while the total of all attachments cannot exceed 20MB. Please contact us immediately if any of your attachments exceed these size limits so that we can provide you with instructions on how to submit any supporting information to your application.

7.2. Joint (consortia) applications

Organisations may join as a group to deliver a project. In this circumstance you must appoint an eligible entity lead organisation. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the project partners. Each letter of support should include:

- details of the project partner
- an overview of how the project partner will work with the lead organisation and any other project partners in the group to successfully complete the project
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the project partner will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities the project partner will undertake, and the resources it will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the grant agreement.

7.3. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot accept late applications.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your project from the date we notify you that your application is successful.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	3 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	5 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Project completion date	No later than 31 March 2029

7.4. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria.

If eligible, your application will be assessed against the assessment criteria. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

The Committee will assess your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.²

² See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, the Committee will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s of the grant opportunity
- the relative value of the grant sought
- evidence you provide to demonstrate how your project contributes to meeting the program objectives and intended outcomes
- the cash or in-kind contributions that you are making to the project
- whether the portfolio of projects represents the best outcome for the program, which could include the geographic distribution of projects and mix of technologies.

We also consider any national interest, financial, legal/regulatory, governance or other issue or risk that we identify during any due diligence process that we conduct in respect of the applicant.

This includes its directors, officers, senior managers, key personnel, its related bodies corporate (as defined in the *Corporations Act*) or its application that could bring the Australian Government into disrepute if it were to fund the applicant.

Such issues and risks include where we consider that funding the application under this grant opportunity is likely to directly conflict with Australian Government policy.

Where possible³, we will provide you with an opportunity to comment on any material risks identified during this due diligence process prior to our determining the extent (if any) to which those issues or risks affect our assessment of the application and, if so, whether they are sufficient to warrant the exclusion of your application from the assessment process.

8.2. Who will assess applications?

We refer your application to an independent committee of experts established by DCCEEW. The Committee may also seek additional advice from independent technical experts or advisors to inform the assessment process.

The Committee will assess your application against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which projects to fund. The Committee, and any expert or advisor, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

The Committee may seek additional information about you or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if you do not nominate the sources as referees. The Committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available as a result of the due diligence process or through the normal course of business.

8.3. Who will approve grants?

The Minister decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of the committee and the availability of grant funds.

The Minister's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval and funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The Minister will not approve funding if there are insufficient program funds available across relevant financial years for the program.

³ Subject to national security and other considerations.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

9.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on [business.gov.au](#) and GrantConnect.

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. You may elect to commence your project from the date we notify you that your application is successful. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. The Commonwealth will not be liable, and should not be held out as being liable, for any activities undertaken before the grant agreement is executed.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

If you enter an agreement under the Grid Enhancing Technologies program, you cannot receive other grants for the same activities from other Commonwealth, state or territory granting programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

We will use a standard grant agreement for medium or larger projects where we consider your project to be more complex.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application. We will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the project as approved by the Program Delegate.

10.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

10.3. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any financial contribution provided by you or a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

10.4. Grant Payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities⁴.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on tax.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#), Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- joint/consortia partners and related arrangements (if applicable).

⁴ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at ato.gov.au

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2. Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of participants directly related to the project.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.2.1. Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include details of your progress towards completion of agreed project activities
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant project activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any project or milestone reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

12.2.2. Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

12.2.3. End of project report

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report.

End of project reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date.

12.3. Audited financial acquittal report

We will ask you to provide an independent audit report. An audit report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The audit report requires you to prepare a statement of grant income and expenditure.

12.4. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum 48 month period
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project grant agreement end date. You can submit a variation request via our online portal.

If a delay in the project causes milestone achievement and payment dates to move to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is enough program funding in the relevant year to allow for the revised payment schedule. If we cannot move the funds, you may lose some grant funding.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

12.5. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6. Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7. Evaluation

DCCEEW will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8. Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, including in a brochure or publication, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This project received grant funding from the Australian Government through the Grid Enhancing Technologies Program.'

13. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by DISR during the application period. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

13.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager

Business Grants Hub

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

GPO Box 2013

CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

13.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)⁵ on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

13.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per below, or
- personal information as per below.

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, the committee, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)⁶ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

13.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

⁵ <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy>

⁶ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to the committee and our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

13.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

13.6. National security

Eligible activities under this grant may have national security implications. It is your responsibility to consider any such implications of the proposed project and identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, intellectual property protection, espionage and foreign interference and unwanted transfer of technology, data or other knowledge.

You must inform the department if you identify any material risks relating to national security. To assist with managing security risks, you are strongly encouraged to review the department's [Guide to undertaking international collaboration](#).

13.6.1. Know your partner

If you are submitting a joint application, you should ensure that you know who you are collaborating with by undertaking appropriate due diligence, proportionate to the risk and subject to available

information, on all partners and personnel participating in the project. This should take into account any potential security, ethical, legal and reputational risks, and, where necessary, you should be prepared to demonstrate how you will manage and mitigate any identified risks.

13.6.2. Foreign affiliations

Eligible activities under this grant may involve partners or personnel with foreign affiliations. You must inform us of any relationships between project participants and foreign parties that could influence or benefit from the proposed activity. Such relationships may include foreign ownership or sponsorship, connections to foreign governments, militaries, political parties, or other organisations, and membership of foreign talent programs. You must also inform us of the establishment of any such relationships throughout the life of the grant.

13.7. Disclosure of Commonwealth, state or territory financial penalties

You must disclose whether any of your board members, management or persons of authority have been subject to any pecuniary penalty, whether civil, criminal or administrative, imposed by a Commonwealth, state, or territory court or a Commonwealth, state, or territory entity. If this is the case, you must provide advice to the department regarding the matter for consideration.

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application ranking.
Committee	The body established by DCCEEW to consider and assess eligible applications and make recommendations to the decision maker for funding under the program.
<u>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)</u>	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
curtailment	Energy from a generator not being dispatched, even though it was bid at or below the regional reference price, because of some system limitation (such as a network constraint).
date of effect	Can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in section 5.1.

Term	Definition
eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in section 5.2.
General Manager	Position title for Senior Executive Service level staff within DISR.
grant	<p>For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁷ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁸ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single DCCEEW Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.

⁷ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁸ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
in-kind contributions	Non-monetary goods, services, labour or access to infrastructure and/or equipment that directly contributes to activity funded by the grant.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for Climate Change and Energy
non-income-tax-exempt	Not exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth) or under Division 1AB of Part III of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth).
personal information	<p>Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:</p> <p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program Delegate	A Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
proven technology	Technologies which have increased the capacity and functionality of existing grid infrastructure in real world settings.
Publicly funded research organisation (PFRO)	All higher education providers listed at Table A and Table B of the <i>Higher Education Support Act 2003</i> (Cth) and corporate Commonwealth entities, and state and territory business enterprises which undertake publicly funded research.
selection criteria	Comprises of eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.

Term	Definition
value with money	<p>Value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and ▪ the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Eligible expenditure

This section provides guidance on the eligibility of expenditure. We may update this guidance from time to time; check you are referring to the most current version from the business.gov.au website before preparing your application.

The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be incurred by you within the project period
- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred by you to undertake required project audit activities (where applicable)
- meet the eligible expenditure guidelines.

A.1 How we verify eligible expenditure

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify the project budget that you provided in your application when we negotiate your grant agreement. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

The grant agreement will include details of the evidence you may need to provide when you achieve certain milestones in your project. This may include evidence related to eligible expenditure.

If requested, you will need to provide the agreed evidence along with your progress reports.

You must keep payment records of all eligible expenditure and be able to explain how the costs relate to the agreed project activities. At any time, we may ask you to provide records of the expenditure you have paid. If you do not provide these records when requested, the expense may not qualify as eligible expenditure.

At the end of the project, you will be required to provide an independent financial audit of all eligible expenditure from the project.

A.2 Plant and equipment expenditure

Plant is usually an input to the project or the tools or infrastructure used to undertake the project. Plant is likely to have a value or use outside of the project and you can build or obtain it with minimal technical risk or new learning.

A.3 Newly purchased plant and pre-existing purchased plant

Only depreciation of newly purchased and pre-existing purchased plant is eligible expenditure. Depreciation is the decline in asset value of an item of plant allowed through the Commissioner of Taxation's effective life schedules. The depreciation must be proportional to the time you use it on the project. In extraordinary situations, for instance, where the plant is subject to heavy usage, and where this is in accordance with Commissioner of Taxation's rules, you may apply a higher rate of depreciation.

You can only claim depreciation of the plant for the time you use it on the project. However, you can claim all eligible depreciation charges in full for each item of purchased plant as you deploy it.

Running costs for purchased or pre-existing plant are eligible expenditure but must be readily verifiable and may include items such as rent, light and power, repairs and maintenance.

A.4 Hired/leased plant

You must calculate eligible expenditure for hired, rented, or leased plant by the number of payment periods where you use the plant for the project multiplied by the period hiring fee. If you purchase plant under a hire purchase agreement, or you use a lease to finance the purchase of the plant, the cost of the item of plant, excluding interest, is capitalised, and then depreciated.

Running costs for hired or leased plant are eligible expenditure but you must be able to verify them. They may include items such as rent, light and power, and repairs and maintenance.

A.5 Constructed plant

Only depreciation of constructed plant is eligible expenditure. Depreciation is the decline in asset value of an item of plant allowed through the Commissioner of Taxation's effective life schedules. The depreciation must be proportional to the time you use it on the project. In extraordinary situations, for instance, where the plant is subject to heavy usage, and where this is in accordance with Commissioner of Taxation's rules, you may apply a higher rate of depreciation.

Where you lease a project facility you may claim leasehold improvements where they are for your specific needs. The improvement cost is eligible expenditure if it is capitalised in your financial statements (balance sheet) and depreciated as above.

The starting value for constructed plant depreciation calculations is the capitalised construction cost or capitalised leasehold improvement cost for the plant item according to ATO requirements. You can only claim depreciation of the plant for the time you use it on the project. However, you can claim all eligible depreciation charges in full for each item of purchased plant as you deploy it.

Once fully completed, running costs for constructed plant are eligible expenditure but you must be able to verify them. They may include items such as rent, light and power, repairs and maintenance.

A.6 Labour expenditure

Eligible labour expenditure for the grant covers the direct labour costs of employees you directly employ on the core elements of the project. We consider a person an employee when you pay them a regular salary or wage, out of which you make regular tax instalment deductions.

We consider costs for technical, but not administrative, project management activities eligible labour expenditure. However, we limit these costs to 10 per cent of the total amount of eligible labour expenditure claimed.

We do not consider labour expenditure for leadership or administrative staff (such as CEOs, CFOs, accountants and lawyers) as eligible expenditure, even if they are doing project management tasks.

Eligible salary expenditure includes an employee's total remuneration package as stated on their Pay As You Go (PAYG) Annual Payment Summary submitted to the ATO. We consider salary-sacrificed superannuation contributions as part of an employee's salary package if the amount is more than what the Superannuation Guarantee requires.

The maximum salary for an employee, director or shareholder, including packaged components that you can claim through the grant is \$175,000 per financial year.

For periods of the project that do not make a full financial year, you must reduce the maximum salary amount you claim proportionally.

You can only claim eligible salary costs when an employee is working directly on agreed project activities during the agreed project period.

A.7 Labour on-costs and administrative overhead

You may increase eligible salary costs by an additional 30 per cent allowance to cover on-costs such as employer paid superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation insurance, and overheads such as office rent and the purchase or provision of computing equipment directly required or related to the delivery of the project

You should calculate eligible salary costs using the formula below:

$$\text{Eligible salary costs} = \text{Annual salary package} \times \frac{\text{Weeks spent on project}}{52 \text{ weeks}} \times \text{percentage of time spent on project}$$

You cannot calculate labour costs by estimating the employee's worth. If you have not exchanged money (either by cash or bank transactions) we will not consider the cost eligible.

Evidence you will need to provide can include:

- details of all personnel working on the project, including name, title, function, time spent on the project and salary
- ATO payment summaries, pay slips and employment contracts.

A.8 Contract expenditure

Eligible contract expenditure is the cost of any agreed project activities that you contract others to do. These can include contracting:

- another organisation
- an individual who is not an employee, but engaged under a separate contract.

All contractors must have a written contract prior to starting any project work—for example, a formal agreement, letter or purchase order which specifies:

- the nature of the work they perform
- the applicable fees, charges and other costs payable.

Invoices from contractors must contain:

- a detailed description of the nature of the work
- the hours and hourly rates involved
- any specific plant expenses paid.

Invoices must directly relate to the agreed project, and the work must qualify as an eligible expense. The costs must also be reasonable and appropriate for the activities performed.

We will require evidence of contractor expenditure that may include:

- an exchange of letters (including email) setting out the terms and conditions of the proposed contract work
- purchase orders
- supply agreements
- invoices and payment documents.

You must ensure all project contractors keep a record of the costs of their work on the project. We may require you to provide a contractor's records of their costs of doing project work. If you cannot provide these records, the relevant contract expense may not qualify as eligible expenditure.

A.9 Travel and overseas expenditure

Eligible travel and overseas expenditure may include

- domestic travel limited to the reasonable cost of accommodation and transportation required to conduct agreed project and collaboration activities in Australia
- overseas travel limited to the reasonable cost of accommodation and transportation required in cases where the overseas travel is material to the conduct of the project in Australia.

Eligible air transportation is limited to the economy class fare for each sector travelled. Where non-economy class air transport is used only the equivalent of an economy fare for that sector is eligible expenditure. Where non-economy class air transport is used, the grantee will require evidence showing what an economy airfare costs at the time of travel.

We will consider value for money when determining whether the cost of overseas expenditure is eligible. This may depend on

- the proportion of total grant funding that you will spend on overseas expenditure
- the proportion of the service providers total fee that will be spent on overseas expenditure
- how the overseas expenditure is likely to aid the project in meeting the program objectives

Overseas travel must be at an economy rate and you must demonstrate you cannot access the service, or an equivalent service in Australia.

Eligible travel and overseas activities expenditure is generally limited to 10 per cent of total eligible expenditure.

A.10 Other eligible expenditure

Other eligible expenditures for the project may include:

- building modifications where you own the modified asset and the modification is required to undertake the project, for example installing a clean room. Modifications to leased buildings may be eligible. You must use the leased building for activities related to your manufacturing process
- staff training that directly supports the achievement of project outcomes
- financial auditing of project expenditure, the cost of an independent audit of project expenditure (where we request one) up to a maximum of 1 per cent of total eligible project expenditure
- costs you incur in order to obtain planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals during the project period. However, associated fees paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments are not eligible
- contingency costs up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the eligible project costs. Note that we make payments based on actual costs incurred.

Other specific expenditures may be eligible as determined by the Program Delegate.

Evidence you need to supply can include supplier contracts, purchase orders, invoices and supplier confirmation of payments.

Appendix B. Ineligible expenditure

This section provides guidance on what we consider ineligible expenditure. We may update this guidance from time to time; check you are referring to the most current version from the [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au) website before preparing your application.

The Program Delegate may impose limitations or exclude expenditure, or further include some ineligible expenditure listed in these guidelines in a grant agreement or otherwise by notice to you.

Examples of ineligible expenditure include:

- research not directly supporting eligible activities
- activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources
- costs related to preparing the grant application, preparing any project reports (except costs of independent audit reports we require) and preparing any project variation requests
- costs incurred prior to us notifying you that the application is successful
- cash or in-kind contributions not directly relevant to achieving the grant activities
- financing costs, including interest
- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers
- the construction, renovation or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories (unless it directly relates to the project)
- costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project)
- costs such as rental and utilities
- non-project-related staff training and development costs
- insurance costs (the participants must effect and maintain adequate insurance or similar coverage for any liability arising as a result of its participation in funded activities)
- debt financing
- costs related to obtaining resources used on the project, including interest on loans, job advertising and recruiting, and contract negotiations
- depreciation of plant and equipment beyond the life of the project
- maintenance costs that are not directly related to the achievement of the project
- costs of purchasing, leasing, depreciation of, or development of land
- opportunity costs relating to any production losses due to allocating resources to the agreed grant project
- routine operating expenses not accounted as labour on-costs – including communications, accommodation, overheads and consumables, e.g. paper, printer cartridges, office supplies
- ongoing upgrades, updates and maintenance of existing ICT systems and computing facilities unless it directly relates to the project
- recurring or ongoing operational expenditure (including annual maintenance, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges)
- travel or overseas costs that exceed 10 per cent of total project costs except where otherwise approved by the Program Delegate
- catering, including alcohol costs.

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where we decide that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or that they are contrary to the objective of the program.

You must ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.