

Regional
Development
Australia

LOGAN & REDLANDS INC

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND (BBRF)
ROUND 5:
INFORMATION PRESENTATION





Australian Government



STRONG, CONFIDENT AND VIBRANT REGIONS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA CHARTER

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role in their communities with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize economic opportunities and attract investment.

Collaborating with other RDA Committees, all levels of government, and the private sector, RDA Committees will:

- a) Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement and jobs.
- b) Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian Government policies, grant programs and research.
- c) Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.
- d) Co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

Assistant Minister for Regional Development

28 October 2020



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Three overarching Regional Development Australia Priorities

1. Improving access to funding.
2. Coordination to progress key regional projects.
3. Communication to and from Federal Government.





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This presentation covers:

- Application criteria, guidelines and key elements of applying for Building Better Regions Round 5 funding.
- Guidance on developing a strong application.
- Best practice principles and advice on where to gather supporting information such as economic data and evidence.
- Tips for getting your application approved.



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BBRF Link :
<https://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/building-better-regions-fund.aspx>

BBRF Round 5 - overview

The Australian Government announced \$200 million in the 2020-21 Budget for a fifth round of the BBRF which includes:

- **\$100 million to support tourism-related infrastructure projects** which are focused on mitigating the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on a region's tourism industry; and
- **\$100 million** will support regional remote Australia more broadly, by funding general **infrastructure** projects and **community investment** projects.



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Grant amounts & application period

Amount:

- Infrastructure Grants (including Tourism) of \$20,000 to \$10 million; and
- Community Investment Grants of \$5,000 to \$1 million.

NOTE: Total Commonwealth Government funding towards eligible project costs varies depending on project circumstances – please refer to Grant Guidelines for more information.

Application period:

- **Opens:** 12 January 2021.
- **Closes:** 5 March 2021 at 5:00 pm AEDT (**NOTE** 4.00pm, Queensland time).

Announcements of successful projects are expected to be made mid-2021.



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Who can apply?

To be eligible you must be:

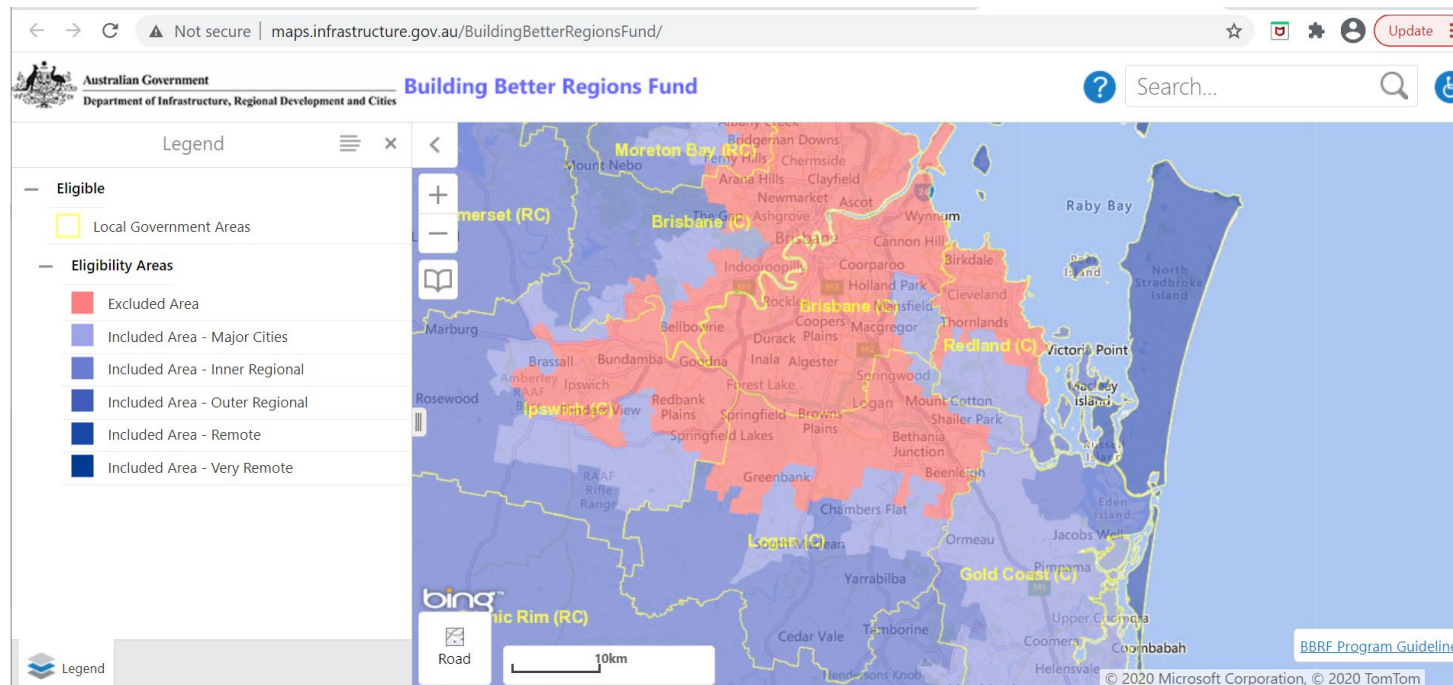
- the key driver of the project;
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- one of the following incorporated entities:
 - Incorporated not-for-profit organisation;
 - An Australian local government agency or body; and
 - Non-distributing co-operative.



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Mapping Tool

maps.infrastructure.gov.au/BuildingBetterRegionsFund/



Both Logan and Redlands LGAs are comprised of excluded & non-excluded areas.

It is important to note applications from locations within excluded areas must demonstrate flow-on benefits into eligible areas.



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Eligible locations

The project must not be located in an excluded area unless it can be demonstrated there are significant benefits and employment outcomes flowing directly into an eligible area.

The project location determines remoteness classification which will determine co-contribution obligations.



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Infrastructure Projects Stream

Supports projects that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas

Eligible Activities

- Construction of new infrastructure;
- Upgrade to existing infrastructure;
- Extension of existing infrastructure; and
- Replacement of infrastructure where there is significant increase in benefit.



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Investment ready projects

Investment ready projects are where project construction is ready to commence in the immediate future and where you have:

- The authority of the land or infrastructure owner to undertake the project at the nominated site;
- Confirmed funding contributions from all sources and can provide formal documentation to verify those contributions;
- Submissions ready (or submitted) for all regulatory and/or development approvals; and
- Finalised project designs and costings.

CONSTRUCTION MUST NOT HAVE STARTED



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Tourism Related Infrastructure projects

- When applying, you will be asked to indicate your intention to seek funding for your project from the tourism-related infrastructure projects funding pool.
- **Demonstrate the impact** the COVID-19 pandemic has had on your region's tourism industry.
- **Show how your project will provide benefits** to the tourism industry to assist in mitigating the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **You are required to provide evidence to support your claims.**

Note that you do not have to be a tourist organisation to apply for the tourism-related infrastructure funding.



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Community Investment Stream

To be eligible your project must be aimed at new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, or leadership and capability strengthening activities that provide economic & social benefit to regional and remote areas and comprise of one of the following:

- A. Local events;
- B. Strategic planning; or
- C. Regional leadership and capability.

THE PROJECT MUST NOT HAVE COMMENCED



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A) Local Events

Events drive economic growth, promote community participation and inclusion, encourage volunteers and build on our regional identity.

You can only receive funding for an event once under this program.

Funding is intended as seed funding for local events that:

- are new to the community; or
- support a significant contribution to an existing event.



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B) Strategic Planning

Activities to facilitate the development of quality regional plans driving strong regions which focus on pursuing economic opportunities and/or addressing identified challenges across a region/industry.

Eligible activities include:

- regional skills audit;
- research projects to support regional development strategic plans; and
- collecting socio-economic information.



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C) Regional leadership & capability

Activities to build capability of regional leaders, equipping them with skills to effectively drive change and champion positive futures for their communities.

Applications need to demonstrate clear and definitive outcomes including broad benefits for the community

Eligible activities include:

- leadership courses;
- participation and community building measures for young people; and
- participation in activities to improve local business & industry leadership capability.



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Assessment criteria weighting

For both the Infrastructure Projects Stream & the Community Investments Stream, the following are the assessment criteria and the relevant weightings:

- Economic benefits of your project for the region – 15 Points;
- Social benefits of your project for the region – 15 Points;
- Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project – 5 Points; and
- Impact of funding on your project – 5 Points.



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Assessment criteria general

- You must address all assessment criteria in your application.
- The amount of detail and supporting evidence should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.
- You must provide evidence to support your answers against each of the assessment criteria.

The application form displays size limits for answers.



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Round 5 Objectives & Outcomes

The objectives of the program are to:

- drive economic growth; and
- build stronger regional communities into the future.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- create jobs;
- have a positive impact on economic activity;
- enhance community facilities;
- enhance leadership capacity; and
- encourage community cohesion and a sense of identity.



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Key principles of a successful project

- **Measurable improvements** – explain and demonstrate the benefits of your project.
- **Project well defined** – project plans, risk plans, budgets, business cases, regulatory docs etc.
- **Meaningful support** – provide evidence of mutually beneficial partnerships with a range of stakeholders.
- **Value for money** – partnership funding, does the project leverage financial & in-kind funding from all partners? Are your costs realistic?
- **Shovel ready** – is your project ready to proceed so that benefits of the project are realised faster?
- **Strategic alignment** – does your project fit within local, regional or state strategic plans (i.e., part of a bigger picture to achieve greater outcomes)?



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Initial considerations.....

READ THE GUIDELINES!!!

- Check eligibility requirements (covered in slide 9).
- Grant amounts will be a percentage of the total eligible project costs (grant percentage) based on your project circumstances.
- You must complete your project by the project end date specified in your grant agreement, which cannot be after 31 December 2023.
- Confirm what can and can't be funded – eligible activities, locations & expenditure.
- Apply Assessment criteria.
- Confirm how to apply and mandatory documents.



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Economic Benefits (15 points)

Meets the needs of the regional community and results in broader economic benefits during and beyond the funding.

Economic benefits can include increases in economic activity, improvements in productivity, wider access to markets or fairer and more equitable economic outcomes such as:

- increased number/value of jobs, new businesses or new goods & services in the region;
- opportunities for growth, increasing efficiencies in existing sectors (e.g., tourism, manufacturing);
- use of local suppliers & goods;
- increasing efficiency of the transport system or service delivery; and/or
- Indigenous participation.



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Social Benefits (15 points)

Meets the needs of the regional community and broader social benefits during and beyond funding.

Social benefits may included increases to regional amenity, improving community connections & providing opportunities for learning and knowledge creation by:

- making a region a more attractive place to live;
- the degree to which the project fills a gap within the community;
- improving community connections and social inclusion;
- supporting or protecting local heritage and culture;
- increasing community volunteering; and/or
- addressing disadvantage within the community.



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Capacity, capability & resources to deliver project (5 Points)

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

- a. your track record managing similar projects and access to personnel and/or partners with the right skills and experience;
- b. your readiness to commence the project, including your access to any required resources such as infrastructure, capital equipment or technology. You should describe the steps you have taken to allow construction to commence in the immediate future including the status of:
 - required regulatory and/or development approvals;
 - project designs and costings;
 - authority from the land or infrastructure owner to undertake the project at the nominated site(s); and
 - funding contributions from all sources;
- c. sound project planning to manage and monitor the project, which addresses scope, implementation methodology, timeframes, budget and risk management (including mitigation of health risks associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic); and
- d. how you will operate and maintain the infrastructure and benefits of the project into the future.

If your project is still in the planning or concept stage, it is not likely to be competitive



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Impact of funding on your project (5 Points)

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

- a. your plan for engagement and collaboration to ensure community support for your project.
In your response you can describe:
 - the total investment the grant will leverage including additional cash contribution and in-kind support; and
 - the extent that your project increases investment and builds partnerships in your region;
- b. the likelihood the project would proceed without the grant. If not, why not? Explain how the grant will impact the project in terms of size, timing and reach; and
- c. if you have already received Commonwealth funding for this project or an associated project, explain why you need additional funding.



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Grant writing tips

- Read the Guidelines – can't stress this enough.
- Be clear as to why you require the funding – economic and community impact.
- Demonstrate support.
- Be succinct – character limits .
- Don't assume the assessors know you, your region or your acronyms – this is important, consider bay islands for example, increased transport costs, community connectivity etc.
- Submit early.



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Grant writing tips

- Show Financial Support.
- Show In-kind Support.
- Do not leave it until the last week.
- Start asking for letters of support early and follow up.
- Allow time to revise your application.
- Use a fresh set of eyes.
- Use data and evidence

BBRF SPECIFIC – DEMONSTRATE YOUR PROJECT WILL ADDRESS THE INTENDED OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES OF THE BBRF GRANT



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Data and evidence

Use evidence based data and examples to support your claims

Regional plans and reports such as:

- Queensland regional plans; and
- Council strategic plans.



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Regional profile : **Logan City**

<https://profile.id.com.au/logan>

The Logan City Council Community Profile provides demographic analysis for the City and smaller areas within it based on results from the 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991 Censuses of Population and Housing. The profile is updated with population estimates when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases new figures.

<https://economy.id.com.au/logan>

Logan City Council's economic profile presents economic information that enables you to describe the area's role within the broader economy, explore options for economic development and promote the area's strengths. The information presented here is derived from official sources of information (Australian Bureau of Statistics) as well as Australia's leading economic modellers (NIEIR). The latest data from each series is always presented in this site.



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Regional profile : **Redland City**

<https://profile.id.com.au/redland>

The Redland City Council Community Profile provides demographic analysis for the City and smaller areas within it based on results from the 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991 Censuses of Population and Housing. The profile is updated with population estimates when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases new figures.

<https://economy.id.com.au/redland>

Redland City Council's economic profile presents economic information that enables you to describe the area's role within the broader economy, explore options for economic development and promote the area's strengths. The information presented here is derived from official sources of information (Australian Bureau of Statistics) as well as Australia's leading economic modellers (NIEIR). The latest data from each series is always presented in this site.



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Letters of support

Who to get Letters of Support from?

- Federal Member(s);
- State Member (s);
- Local Council (s);
- Local RDA (s);
- Chambers of Commerce;
- Industry Bodies;
- Community Groups; and/or
- Tourism Organisations and AUSTRADE – particularly if it is tourism related.



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Key documents

- Accountant declaration;
- Evidence of contribution letter;
- Authority to undertake the project at a site;
- Tourism infrastructure – demonstrate the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on your region’s tourism industry – provide evidence;
- Exemption to matching funds – show evidence of exceptional circumstances;
- Proof of eligible status;
- Employment numbers;
- Criterion evidence; and/or
- Over \$1 million – cost benefit analysis.



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