



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

Building Better Regions Fund Round 6

Bruce Murphy

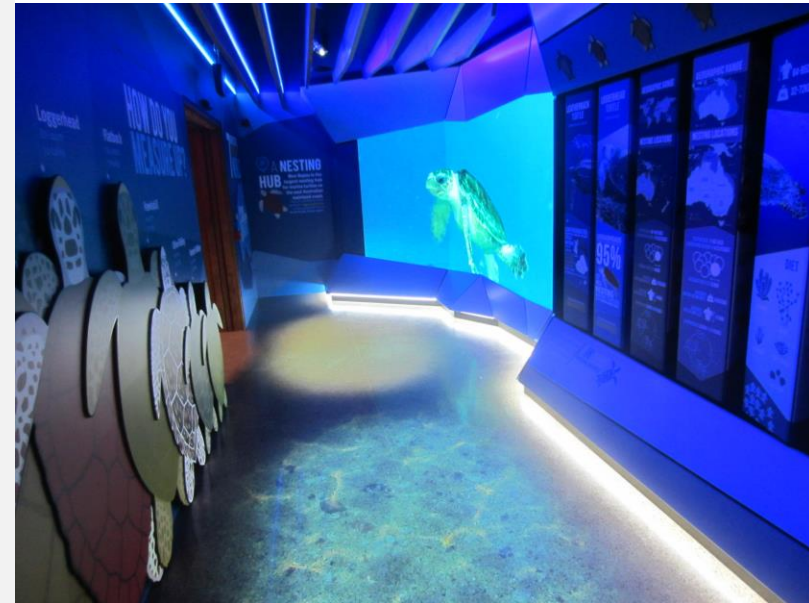
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

BBRF| Program Overview

What is the Building Better Regions Fund?

The BBRF is a \$1.38 billion program investing in community-driven projects to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional and remote communities

- ❑ It is an open, competitive and merit-based grants program for local government bodies, incorporated not-for-profit organisations and non-distributing cooperatives.
- ❑ A ministerial panel, chaired by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, is established for each round to make grant funding decisions.



Bundaberg Regional Council – Mon Repos Turtle Centre Redevelopment (Stage 2) – Round 2

BBRF| Infrastructure Projects Stream

Business Grants Hub: Who are we?

The **Business Grants Hub** at Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) delivers the BBRF on behalf of our policy partner at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC)

What we manage:

- Program enquiries
- Assessment of applications
- Contract negotiation, execution and variation
- Contract delivery
- Unsuccessful applicant feedback

We are ready to answer questions via phone, email or web chat.

Ph. [13 28 46](tel:132846)

Monday – Friday, 8am to 8pm (EST)
across Australia

Email: BBRF@industry.gov.au

Website: www.Business.gov.au

BBRF| Program Overview

Grant Funding

The sixth BBRF round was announced in the Australian Government's 2021-22 Budget.

The grant funding amount available is a minimum of \$5,000 and up to a maximum of \$10 million.

The projects must be completed by 31 December 2024.



Rockhampton Regional Council – *New Rockhampton Art Gallery* – BBRF Round 3

BBRF| What does it offer?

There are two streams of funding available under the Program

Infrastructure Projects Stream supports projects involving construction of new infrastructure or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas

Community Investments Stream funds community development activities including new or expanded local events, strategic regional planning, and leadership and capability building activities

BBRF| Infrastructure Projects Stream

Key Stream details

The grant amount must be between \$20,000 and \$10 million.

All projects must be **investment ready**, to allow construction to commence within 12 weeks of executing a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.



Shire of Mundaring – *Lake Leschenaultia Facilities Upgrade*–
BBRF Round 4

BBRF| Infrastructure Projects Stream

Eligible Activities

To be eligible the project must not have commenced construction, and comprise one or more of the following activities:

- construction of new infrastructure
- upgrade of existing infrastructure
- extension of existing infrastructure, or
- replacement of infrastructure for a significant increase in benefit.

Applicants may only spend grant and co-funding on eligible activities directly related to the project.

BBRF| Infrastructure Projects Stream

Projects must be Investment Ready

The Infrastructure Projects Stream only supports **investment ready** projects

Construction must commence within 12 weeks of executing the grant agreement, where:

- the authority of the land or infrastructure owner has been given to undertake the project at the nominated site(s)
- funding contributions from all sources have been confirmed
- regulatory and/or development approvals have been submitted and/or obtained, and
- project designs and costings have been finalised.

BBRF| Community Investment Stream

Key stream details

The grant amount must be between \$5,000 and \$1 million.

Applications with a total eligible project cost equal to or less than \$20,000 do not have to provide a cash contribution.



Griffith Regional Theatre – *Sunshine Super Girl* - BBRF Round 4

BBRF| Community Investment Stream

Key stream details

The Community Investments Stream will fund:

- new or expanded local events
- development of strategic regional plans, and
- leadership and capability strengthening activities.

Applicants can only spend grant and co-funding on eligible activities directly related to their project.



Gladstone Regional Council – *Luminous 2021 Heritage* - BBRF Round 4

BBRF| Who can apply?

Applicant eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be the organisation with overall responsibility to deliver the project, and
- have an ABN

and be one of the following incorporated entities:

- an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, as demonstrated by:
 - current Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's (ACNC) registration
 - state or territory incorporated association status, or
 - constitutional documents and/or articles of association demonstrating the not-for-profit character of the organisation
- an Australian local government agency or body, or
- a non-distributing co-operative.

BBRF| Eligibility explained

Project Location

- ❑ The BBRF is designed to benefit regions outside major capital cities
- ❑ A [Mapping Tool](#) on the BBRF website allows applicants to enter their project location to determine a **remoteness classification** by longitude and latitude.

BBRF| Eligibility explained

Funding Contribution

- ❑ The remoteness classification determines the funding contribution requirement.
 - Projects classified as remote or very remote are eligible for funding of up to 75 per cent of total eligible project costs.
 - All other classifications are eligible for up to 50 per cent of total eligible project costs
- ❑ The applicant must contribute the remainder of total eligible project costs in cash, and from any source including state, territory and local government grants.
- ❑ Total Commonwealth funding for the project, including the BBRF grant, cannot exceed the percentages above.

BBRF| Eligibility explained

Exceptional circumstances exemption from cash contribution

Applicants may be experiencing exceptional circumstances that limit their capacity to contribute, and can seek an exemption from the cash contribution requirement.

Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- drought and/or disaster declaration
- limited financial capacity of the local council
- impact of industry decline, and
- significant recent change in population or community demographics.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the exceptional circumstances prevent them from meeting the cash contribution requirement

The Ministerial Panel will consider requests for co-funding exemptions and if the request is not approved the application becomes ineligible.

How do we assess applications?

We assess eligible applications against four assessment criteria and provide recommendations to the Ministerial Panel:

Criterion 1: Economic benefits of the project for the region (15 points)

Criterion 2: Social benefits of the project for the region (15 points)

Criterion 3: Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (5 points)

Criterion 4: Impact of funding on the project (5 points)

To be considered for funding, applications must score at least 60% against each criterion. The Panel makes the final funding decision.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence provided in the application should be in proportion to the project's size and complexity, and the grant amount requested.

How to apply

The BBRF Round Six Grant Opportunity Guidelines were released on 13 December 2021 at www.business.gov.au

- ❑ Applications opened on 13 December and will close on 10 February 2022
 - Applications will *only* be accepted during this time.
- ❑ Announcements of successful projects are expected in late 2022

To apply, applicants must:

- ❑ complete the online application form at www.business.gov.au
- ❑ provide all required information (including mandatory attachments).

How to apply

We encourage prospective applicants to seek support from their nearest Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee.

RDA Committees can:

- assist applicants to identify and develop a strong project proposal that is also a priority within their region and will contribute to long-term economic growth, and
- work with applicants to prepare a competitive application, including supporting documents and evidence.

Further information and contact details for local RDA Committees will be provided after this webinar.

Need help?

- We are ready to answer questions via phone, email or webchat.

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BBRF | Questions

