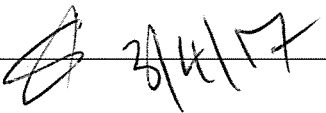


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MINUTE

AusIndustry - Business Systems


Steve Stirling
General Manager
Single Business Services and CRC Program

For Action

Building Better Regions Fund: Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 1 decision on ineligible applications

Recommendation:

That in your role as Program Delegate for the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), you sign **Attachment A** and by doing so agree to the recommendations listed there regarding ineligible applications for the Round 1 of the Building Better Regions Fund Infrastructure Projects Stream (BBRF-IP).

82 applications have been assessed as ineligible and the rationale and recommendations for their ineligibility are at **Attachment A**.

Background

A total of 545 applications have been received under Round 1 of BBRF-IP. Eligibility assessment has been based upon the requirements of the BBRF-IP Program Guidelines and implementation of earlier eligibility guidance provided by you.

Six main issues have been identified that impact the eligibility of 82 applications. These issues are outlined below and have been discussed with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the Department of Infrastructure) to confirm the interpretation of the Program Guidelines and to draw upon experience from the preceding program, the National Stronger Regions Fund.

67 applications have been referred to the Department of Infrastructure for consideration by the Minister's Panel on the basis of applicants seeking an exceptional circumstance exemption from co-funding requirements. In line with the Program Guidelines the eligibility of these application will be determined after consideration by the Minister's Panel.

Previous decisions

On 22 March 2017 you provided advice on a number of matters where interpretation of the eligibility requirements of the Program Guidelines was required to ensure a reasonable and equitable outcome for all application. This advice, along with other guidance designed to provide assessors with clarification on the assessment process, was applied to the eligibility assessment of all applications under this round.

Eligibility Issues

Most applications that have been identified as ineligible have been impacted by one or more of the following issues.

Eligibility Issue	Recommendation and Rationale
Applications do not include one or more mandatory supporting documents and expected content was not included in any other attachments.	That these applications are ineligible for assessment on the basis that Section 8.1 of the Program Guidelines require applicants to include mandatory attachments with their application. (affecting 38 applications)
The applicant has not provided written confirmation of all co-funding.	That these applications are ineligible for assessment on the basis that Section 8.1 of the Program Guidelines require applicants to include letters evidencing the cash or in-kind contribution from each contributing organisation or individual. (affecting 26 applications)
Not for profit applicants have not provided adequate Audited Financial Statements for the two most recent consecutive years.	That these applications are ineligible on the basis that not for profit entities are required to provide Audited Financial Statements for the two most recent consecutive years under Section 8.1 of the Program Guidelines. (affecting 22 applications)
The lead applicant in a joint application is not making a cash contribution to the project.	That these applications are ineligible on the basis that Section 5.3 of the Program Guidelines required the lead applicant in a joint application to make a cash contribution to the project. (affecting 6 applications)
Applicants have not provided evidence of their not for profit status and due diligence has not provided evidence	These applicants are ineligible on the basis that they must provide evidence of their not for profit status. A delegate decision to allow evidence identified through due diligence checks has not revealed any further evidence for these cases. (affecting 5 applications)
Applicant is not an eligible applicant, ie a sole trader, school or for profit company	That these applications are ineligible on the basis that they do not meet the applicant eligibility requirements in Section 5.2 of the program guidelines. (affecting 4 applications)

Other issues include one applicant entering an incorrect remoteness classification resulting in their co-contribution being at a lower value than that required, two projects located in ineligible areas, one project consisting of ineligible activity and one project not providing partner details.

Authority to make decisions

The BBRF IP Program Guidelines establish the range of eligibility requirements for the program. Section 5 of the Guidelines outline eligibility requirements while Section 8 outlines mandatory documents and requirements associated with joint applications.

On 3 February 2017, the Department of Infrastructure authorised the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) employee performing or acting in the role of General Manager with responsibility for BBRF, AusIndustry Business Services, as the Program Delegate to make all necessary decisions and perform all necessary functions in relation to the administration of the BBRF. In Schedule 1 of this authorisation document the Program Delegate is authorised as follows:

With the exception of applications seeking a co-funding exemption, Industry will make decisions on whether applications meet the eligibility requirements in the Program Guidelines

Industry will accept eligible applications and progress these applications for merit assessment.

Note: Industry will consult with the policy owners, Infrastructure, on complex matters where the Program Guidelines are silent and/or advice is required to determine responses in line with program intent.'

The Department of Infrastructure authorisations to the Department of Industry Program Delegate are provided at **Attachment B**.

Attachments

A Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 1 – Delegate’s Decision Sheets for ineligible applications.

B Authorisation of the Program Delegate for the Building Better Regions Fund, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development



Elaine Slater
Program Manager
Building Better Regions Fund

31 March 2017

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ATTACHMENT A Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 1 – Delegate’s Decision Sheets for ineligible applications.

The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Project Number BBRF #	Applicant	Project Title	Project Cost	Grant Amount	Remoteness Classification	Ineligibility reasons
Section 22 - Irrelevant material						



As Program Delegate for BBRF I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling 3/04/17 4

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material

I agree to the recommendations above.....



.....Steve Stirling ...

For official use only

The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material

I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling ...3/04/17

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material

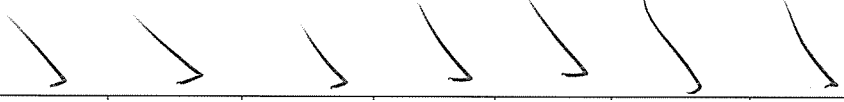


I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling ...3/04/17

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material



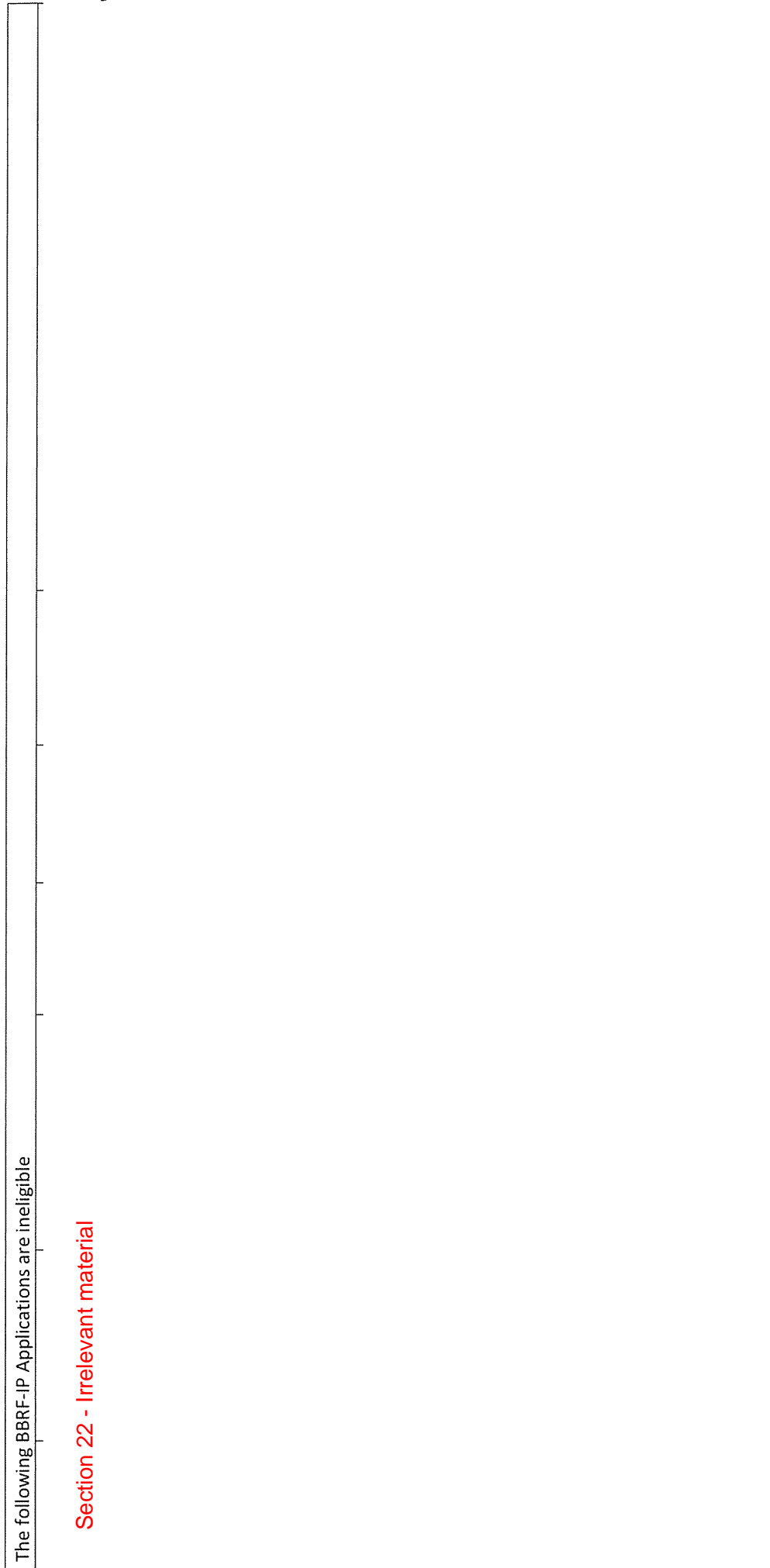
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I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling 3/04/17

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The following BBRE-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material



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I agree to the recommendations above.....

Steve Stirling

3/04/17

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material



I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling .../04/17

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material

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I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling/04/17

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material

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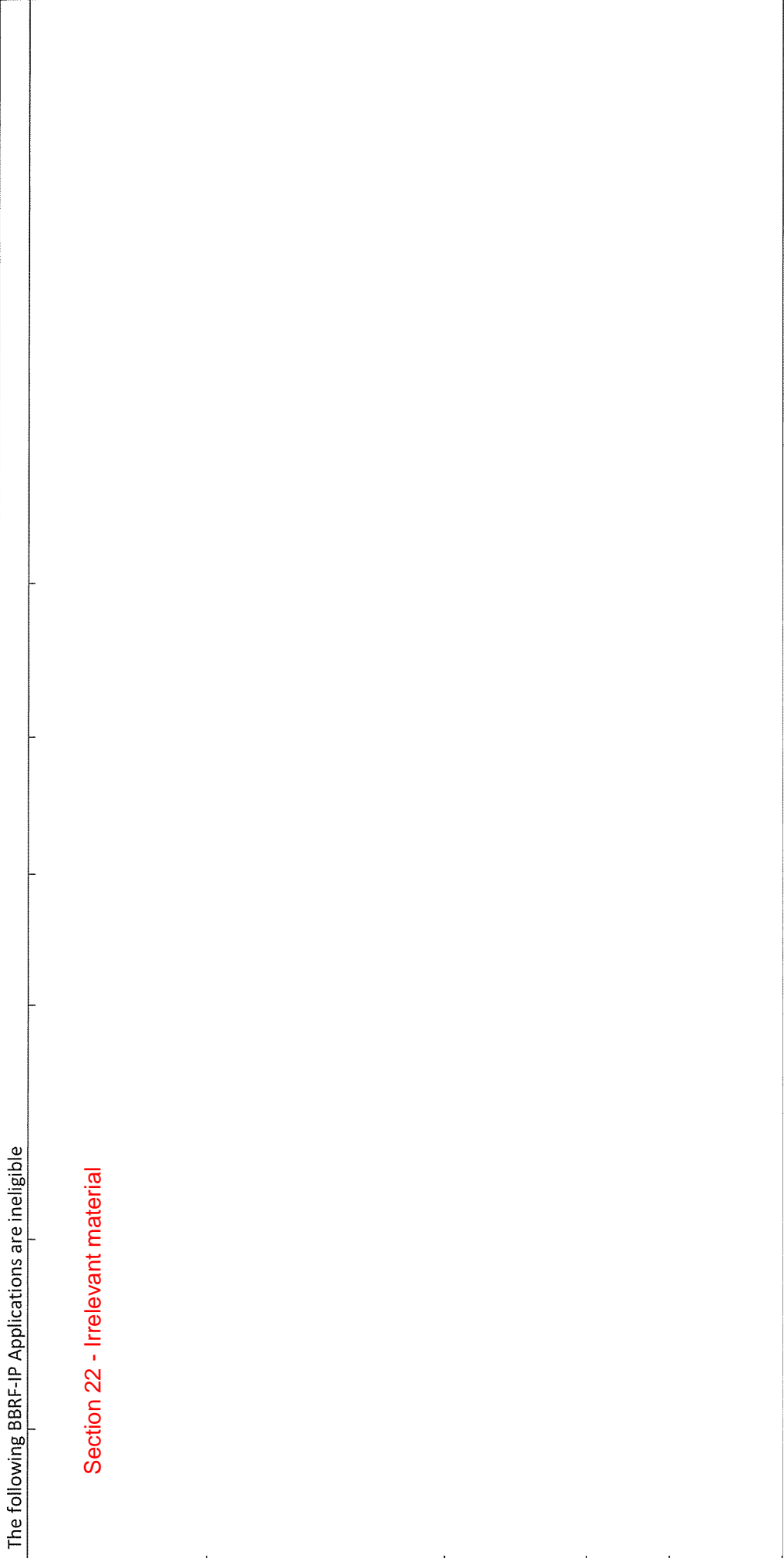


I agree to the recommendations above.....Steve Stirling 3/04/17

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material



I agree to the recommendations above.....

.....Steve Stirling

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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material



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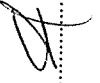
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The following BBRF-IP Applications are ineligible

Section 22 - Irrelevant material

BBRF56304	INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL	Chiltern Placemaking Project - Heritage Town, Bold Future	\$2,248,000	\$975,000	Inner-Regional	Applicant has not provided adequate evidence of \$120,000 of co-contribution.
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I agree to the recommendations above.....



.....Steve Stirling/04/17

ATTACHMENT B

Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Building Better Regions Fund

Authorisation of the Program Delegate for the Building Better Regions Fund, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

I, Ruth Wall, General Manager Regional Programmes Branch, Infrastructure Investment Division, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (Infrastructure), authorise the employee of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Industry) performing or acting in the role of General Manager (SES Band 1) with responsibility for Building Better Regions Fund, AusIndustry - Business Services, as the Program Delegate within the meaning of the Program Guidelines and Services Schedule for the Building Better Regions Fund to:

- i) make all necessary decisions and perform all necessary functions in relation to the administration of the Building Better Regions Fund as set out in Schedule 1 of this authorisation instrument and in accordance with the Program Guidelines; and
- ii) as required, authorise employees of Industry to make some or all decisions and to perform some or all functions specified in the Program Guidelines.

This authorisation takes effect from this **3** day of February 2017.

Ruth Wall, General Manager
Regional Programmes Branch, Infrastructure Investment Division
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Schedule 1

The roles and responsibilities of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Industry) and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (Infrastructure) are as follows:

Activity	Authorisation
Eligible Activities	<p>In line with the Program Guidelines and program intent provide general clarification on eligibility matters and make decisions and provide general advice on activities that are eligible for funding.</p> <p><i>Note: Industry will consult with the policy owners, Infrastructure, on complex matters where the Program Guidelines are silent and/or advice is required to determine responses are in line with program intent.</i></p>
Eligibility Assessment	<p>With the exception of applications seeking a co-funding exemption, Industry will make decisions on whether applications meet the eligibility requirements in the Program Guidelines.</p> <p>Industry will accept eligible applications and progress these applications for merit assessment.</p> <p>Applications seeking an exemption from co-funding must be referred to the Ministerial Panel for eligibility consideration.</p> <p><i>Note: Industry will consult with the policy owners, Infrastructure, on complex matters where the Program Guidelines are silent and/or advice is required to determine eligibility of applications is in line with program intent.</i></p>
Merit Assessment	<p>Industry will undertake a merit assessment on all eligible applications and provide an assessment score for each application for decision by the Ministerial Panel.</p>
Grant Agreement	<p>Industry will extend the period in which the applicant customer must sign and return a grant agreement by up to 30 days beyond the initial 60 calendar day period under the program guidelines where the extension is not likely to result in a need to vary the proposed annual appropriation for the program.</p> <p><i>Note: any extensions of time to execute a grant agreement where the extension is likely to result in a need to vary the proposed annual funding caps must be referred to Infrastructure for decision. Additionally, decisions whether to further extend the time to execute a grant agreement beyond the additional 30 day extension must be referred to Infrastructure.</i></p>
Project Monitoring	<p>Industry will monitor compliance with provisions under the grant agreement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess reports and project progress providing a recommendation to Infrastructure on associated payments • make decisions on variation requests in line with the program guidelines where there are no financial impacts • terminate projects as required <p><i>Note: any financial matters including making payments, considering variations with a financial impact and determining the quantum and recovery of debts will be referred to Infrastructure. Industry agrees to consult with Infrastructure on other grant agreement management issues as appropriate.</i></p>