



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

## Fact Sheet - Growing Regions Program - Round 2

- The Australian Government has **committed \$600 million** towards the **Growing Regions Program** to deliver investment in locally-driven **community infrastructure projects across regional and remote Australia. Program, with funding available over two rounds.**
- **Round 2 will provide \$393 million in total funding.**
- The Growing Regions Program is an **open competitive** program with funding awarded on a **merit basis.**
- The **Growing Regions Program - Round 2 Program Guidelines** were released on **16 August 2024**, ahead of the program's expected opening on 5 September 2024.
- **Applications for Round 2 opened on 5 September and close on 10 October 2024**
- **Round 2 has a single-stage full application process.**
- Funding between **\$500,000 and \$15 million** will be awarded to **eligible local governments and incorporated not-for-profit organisations** to deliver capital works projects for **priority** community infrastructure.
- Eligible projects **must be located outside the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSAs)** as defined by Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- **Joint (consortia) applications** are accepted under the guidelines.
- The Government opened the \$350 million **Thriving Suburbs Program** on 27 July 2024 and this program will cover all communities inside the GCCSAs. We expect **all local government areas in Australia** to be **eligible for funding opportunities under one of these two programs.**
- The Government has redesigned regional investments to ensure best **practice transparency and consistency** of process, as well as **fairer distribution of funds** to ensure people can have confidence in the new programs.
- **Fairness and transparency** in funding administration will continue to be demonstrated in Round 2 of the Growing Regions Program through continued engagement of a **multi-party Parliamentary panel.** The panel will only recommend projects that contribute to social and community inclusion, are aligned with Government and regional priorities and can be delivered and sustained.
- An **external probity advisor** will also provide advice to the **multi-party Parliamentary panel.**

### The objectives of the program are:

- Constructing or upgrading community infrastructure that fills an identified and immediate gap or unmet need for community infrastructure, particularly for communities that have experienced substantial growth.
- Contributing to achieving social outcomes and increased community cohesion, liveability and accessibility for regional and remote communities.
- Delivering increased amenity, liveability and community connectedness in line with the Investing in Places priority focus area of the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework to deliver targeted and place-based investment.

### **The intended outcomes of the program are:**

- Enhance liveability and amenity in regional communities
- Provision of multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad cross section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion
- Contribute to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities including in First Nations communities
- Delivery of diverse project types and a balance of large and small projects
- Supporting and encouraging projects from lesser-resourced project proponents and low rate-based councils.

### **Further information**

- This fact sheet is intended to complement the Program Guidelines for this program. The guidelines are your primary source of information for the program.
- For further information on the geographic eligibility of project locations please refer to the guidelines and use **the mapping tool** available on our program webpage. When using the mapping tool we strongly encourage you to input the exact project location as this will return the most accurate eligibility result for your application.
- The **guidelines and mapping tool** are available at [Growing Regions Program | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

### **Round 1 information**

- Round 1 opened 5 July 2023 and closed 15 January 2024
- On 16 May 2024, funding was announced for 40 approved projects across Australia's regional and remote communities. [Growing Regions Program - Round 1 approved projects](#)
- The Round 1 guidelines are available at [Growing Regions Program | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)