

## Peri-Urban Mobile Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines

---

<b>Opening date:</b>	<b>14 December 2021</b>
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	<b>17.00 ADST on 18 February 2022</b>
<b>Commonwealth policy entity:</b>	<b>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications</b>
<b>Enquiries:</b>	<b>If you have any questions, contact <a href="mailto:PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au">PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au</a></b> <b>Questions should be sent no later than 11 January 2022.</b>
<b>Date guidelines released:</b>	<b>14 December 2021</b>
<b>Type of grant opportunity:</b>	<b>Targeted competitive</b>

---

# Table of contents

Peri-Urban Mobile Program: Processes.....	4
1. Introduction.....	7
<b>1.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2. About the grant program .....	8
3. Grant amount and grant period.....	9
<b>3.1 Grants available .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.2 Applicant co-contribution .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3 Third Party funding co-contributions .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.4 In-kind co-contributions.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.5 Grant period .....</b>	<b>10</b>
4. Eligibility criteria .....	11
<b>4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.2 Minimum requirements .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Co-location and co-build .....	12
Backhaul access and pricing .....	14
Dispute resolution .....	15
5. What the grant money can be used for.....	16
<b>5.1 Eligible grant activities.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5.2 Eligible locations .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5.3 Eligible expenditure.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for.....</b>	<b>17</b>
6. The assessment criteria.....	18
<b>Criterion 1 – Level of improved mobile coverage (50 points).....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Criterion 2 – Design, delivery and cost (40 points).....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Criterion 3 – Community support (20 points).....</b>	<b>19</b>
7. How to apply .....	20
<b>7.1 Timing of Grant Opportunity processes.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>7.2 Applicant registration.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>7.3 Pre-application lodgement.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>7.4 Lodgement of initial proposals .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.5 Completing and lodging an application .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.6 Closing date for funding applications .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.7 Late applications.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.8 Further information about the application .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.9 Questions during the application process.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>7.10 Errors identified in applications.....</b>	<b>24</b>
8. The grant selection process .....	25
<b>8.1 Application completeness check .....</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>8.2 Risk assessment</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>8.3 Evaluation and assessment</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>8.4 Value for Money</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>8.5 Who will assess and evaluate applications?</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>8.6 Who will approve grants?</b> .....	<b>26</b>
9. Notification of application outcomes .....	27
<b>9.1 Application outcomes</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>9.2 Feedback on your application</b> .....	<b>27</b>
10. Successful grant applications.....	28
<b>10.1 The grant agreement</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>10.2 Termination, variation or amendment</b> .....	<b>28</b>
11. Announcement of grants .....	29
12. How we monitor your grant activity .....	30
<b>12.1 The Grantee’s responsibilities</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>12.2 The Department’s responsibilities</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>12.3 Grant payments and GST</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>12.4 Evaluation</b> .....	<b>30</b>
13. Probity .....	31
<b>13.1 Accountability and probity</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>13.2 Enquiries and feedback</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>13.3 Conflicts of interest</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>13.4 Costs</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>13.5 Background checks</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>13.6 Confidentiality</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>13.7 Intellectual Property rights</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>13.8 Privacy of individuals</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>13.9 Personal information to be collected by the Department</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>13.10 Purpose for which the Department will use and disclose personal information</b> ..	<b>34</b>
<b>13.11 The Department’s contact point for privacy matters</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>13.12 Exclusion of liabilities</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>13.13 Disclaimer</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>13.14 Fraud prevention</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>13.15 Freedom of Information</b> .....	<b>36</b>
14. Consultation .....	37
15. Glossary .....	38

## Peri-Urban Mobile Program: Processes

### **The Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives**

This Grant Opportunity is part of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program (the Program) which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' (the Department's) Portfolio Budget Statement Outcome 5. The Department works with stakeholders to design grant programs according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines | Department of Finance](#)



### **The Grant Opportunity opens – Release of Guidelines and call for applications**

Timing: 14 December 2021

At the same time as releasing these Peri-Urban Mobile Program Guidelines (the Guidelines) on [GrantConnect](#), the Government will issue a call for applications from eligible applicants for funding under the Program. For applicant eligibility see section 4.1.



### **Applicant registration and pre-application documentation**

Timing: Registration due by 18 January 2022 (*5 weeks after opening*)

Organisations wishing to apply for funding under the Program must contact the Department to register as potential applicants within five weeks following release of these Guidelines in order to obtain access to the application documentation. At this time, applicants must submit their coverage maps as outlined in section 7.3.1.

The application documentation outlines the requirements on potential applicants prior to submitting an application for funding.

Organisations can register their interest with the Department by emailing [PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au) and providing the following information:

- (a) Organisation name;
- (b) Contact name;
- (c) Contact phone number; and
- (d) Contact email address.



### **Initial proposal period**

Timing: Initial applications due by 18 January 2022 (*5 weeks after opening*)

Applicants have five weeks from the release of the Guidelines to develop and submit initial proposals for locations where they are interested in applying for funding under the Program, including sites where they would be interested in partnering for co-development.

Applicants should only submit proposals that will provide coverage to an Eligible Location.

The application documentation provides the required template for initial proposals.



### **Co-development discussion period and submitting final applications**

Timing: Applications due by 18 February 2022 (*9 weeks after opening*)

*Proposals for individual base stations or clusters can be submitted at any time during this period i.e. it is not necessary to submit an applicant's entire application as a single package.*

The Department will provide registered applicants with a consolidated list of eligible sites as identified through the initial application process.

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to discuss and plan co-development and co-funding opportunities prior to finalising applications. This could include discussions with states. It

is expected that potential applicants may engage in discussions on possible multi-Mobile Network Operators (MNO) solutions in areas of mutual interest<sup>1</sup>.

Applicants cannot propose new single-MNO sites in their final application that were not in their initial proposal. However, applicants may vary a site location or propose a new location where co-development is proposed to better suit all parties, or remove a site if it proves to be non-viable.

At final application stage, each applicant must complete all required documentation, as set out in section 7.5.

This includes the Application Pack, including the Assessment Tool and Application Form, for each Proposed Solution for which it is seeking funding, specifying in each case the information set out in section 7.5.2.

The completed Assessment Tool must include data on the level of Improved Handheld Coverage that each Proposed Solution will achieve in terms of area. Mapping data must indicate the area to be covered by Improved Handheld Coverage, meeting the required service standards set out at section 4.2.

Applications for Proposed Solutions through which more than one MNO will provide mobile coverage and connectivity must be accompanied by written evidence of intent from any of those MNOs that is not an applicant for the purposes of the application, including confirmation of how they intend to provide services through the Proposed Solution (e.g. Radio Access Network (RAN) sharing, co-location).



#### **Assessment of final applications**

Timing: February 2022 — March 2022 (*4 weeks*)

The Department will assess all eligible applications received by the closing date and time (see section 7.6) to determine which Proposed Solutions are to be recommended for Program funding using the Assessment Criteria in section 6 and the processes outlined in section 8.

An expert engineering firm in the mobile telecommunications industry, as appointed by the Department, may test coverage claims at the Department's discretion.

The Proposed Solutions recommended for funding through the assessment process will be included on the Merit List provided to the Decision Maker (see sections 8.5 and 8.6).



#### **Negotiation of Grant Agreements**

Timing: March 2022

Where an applicant requests an amendment to the draft Grant Agreement which is not acceptable to the Commonwealth, the Department may seek to negotiate with the applicant in parallel with the assessment of applications period (see stage 5 in section 7.1).



#### **Co-location negotiations**

Timing: from April 2022

Grantees will notify MNOs that have not already confirmed their intention to provide services through Funded Solutions (whether through co-location or otherwise) of the opportunity to co-locate on those Funded Solutions, and to participate in the detailed design phase using the process set out in sections 4.2.7 to 4.2.11.

---

<sup>1</sup> Applicants are encouraged to engage with the *Australian Competition and Consumer Commission* (ACCC) if they consider that any competition issues might arise under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) from a multi-MNO solution.



**Date of Rollout Completion**

Timing: 30 June 2024

Grantees will be expected to complete the rollout of all Funded Solutions by 30 June 2024 (Date of Rollout Completion). The Date of Rollout Completion will be agreed in the Grant Agreement.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Program, and include relevant information concerning:

- what funding is available;
- who is eligible to apply for funding;
- how to apply for funding; and
- how the funding will be allocated under the Program.

Applicants must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the Program;
- the Eligibility Criteria and Assessment Criteria;
- how grant applications are considered and selected;
- how Grantees are notified and receive grant payments;
- how Grantees will be monitored and evaluated; and
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

## 2. About the grant program

- 2.1.1 The Australian Government has committed \$16.4 million to the Program, announced as part of the Digital Economy Strategy in the 2021-22 Budget.
- 2.1.2 The objective of the Program is to provide grant funding to Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers (MNIPs) to improve mobile phone reception in peri-urban fringe areas that are at threat of bushfire (see section 5.2 for Eligible Locations).
- 2.1.3 The intended outcome of the Program is to fund deployment of new mobile phone infrastructure that will provide improved quality of service to mobile telecommunications users in peri-urban fringe areas, to assist during times of emergency.
- 2.1.4 The Department is responsible for administering the Program on behalf of the Government.
- 2.1.5 This Grant Opportunity will be undertaken according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#) (CGRGs)<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>



## **3. Grant amount and grant period**

### **3.1 Grants available**

- 3.1.1 Up to \$15 million (GST exclusive) will be available for applications under the Program. Funding is available over three years, from 2021-22 to 2023-24.
- 3.1.2 There is no minimum or maximum grant amount under the Program, noting the total grant amount must not exceed \$15 million (see section 3.1.1).
- 3.1.3 Up to 50 per cent of the Total Solution Cost is available for funding for Proposed Solutions under the Program.
- 3.1.4 For the purposes of the Program, the Total Solution Cost means the combined total cost of estimated Asset Capital Costs and incremental Operational Costs for a Proposed Solution. See section 5.3 for eligible expenditure.

### **3.2 Applicant co-contribution**

- 3.2.1 Financial co-contributions made by other MNOs that are confirmed to provide mobile coverage through a Proposed Solution at the time of application, but are not an applicant for the purposes of the application, will be considered in the same manner as other third party co-contributions, as specified in section 3.3.

### **3.3 Third Party funding co-contributions**

- 3.3.1 To increase the reach of the Program, applicants are encouraged (but not required) to seek financial (cash) and in-kind co-contributions from State, Territory or local governments, local communities and/or other third parties. Interested third parties are also encouraged to contact applicants directly in relation to potential co-contributions.
- 3.3.2 During the application period, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with State, Territory and local governments and local communities regarding the locations for which they intend to build Proposed Solutions. These consultations should include any specific areas identified within the location which would be considered desirable to be covered by the Proposed Solution.
- 3.3.3 Where applicants can confirm the level of co-contributions that State, Territory or local governments or other third-parties propose to make, applicants should include this in their application in respect of the relevant Proposed Solution.
- 3.3.4 On request, the Department will provide State, Territory and local government contact details to organisations that have registered as eligible applicants for funding under the Program. Applicants are solely responsible for forming relationships and negotiating contributions with any relevant third parties, and for testing and/or verifying any advice received from these parties.
- 3.3.5 For Funded Solutions that include a co-contribution from a State or Territory government, the Department expects that Grantees will enter into a Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth and a separate agreement with the respective State or Territory government.
- 3.3.6 State, Territory and local governments may own infrastructure in locations that could potentially be used for Funded Solutions. These governments may have specific requirements that will need to be reflected in the applications put forward by applicants for each Proposed Solution.

- 3.3.7 For Proposed Solutions that include co-contributions from third parties, a copy of the terms of the third parties' commitment to the applicant is to be attached to the application for funding.
- 3.3.8 In the event that a Funded Solution includes a co-contribution from a third party, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any costs that may arise in relation to that co-contribution. For example, if the third party's funding is not secured following execution of the Grant Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee, the Grantee will cover the third party's funding.

### **3.4 In-kind co-contributions**

- 3.4.1 A third party may wish to provide an incentive for applicants to include a location in their funding applications. Third party incentives may include in-kind co-contributions towards the construction of a Proposed Solution such as the co-contributions outlined in section 3.4.2.
- 3.4.2 In-kind co-contributions could include:
- assistance with identifying and consulting with the local community on a suitable site;
  - securing the necessary planning and site approvals;
  - lease arrangements;
  - civil works required for access to the site;
  - assistance with coordinating power to the site; or
  - facilitating access to existing infrastructure.
- 3.4.3 Third party in-kind co-contributions are the responsibility of the applicant, and can be reflected in a reduction in the amount of funding the applicant seeks for a Proposed Solution.
- 3.4.4 Applicants are responsible for forming relationships and negotiating contributions with any relevant parties, and for testing and/or verifying any advice received from these parties.

### **3.5 Grant period**

- 3.5.1 All Funded Solutions must be completed by the date specified in the respective Grant Agreement.
- 3.5.2 Funded Solutions must remain operational, and provide the required services outlined in section 4.2 to the target coverage areas on a commercial basis, for at least 10 years following the date on which the Grantee confirms that the required services are able to be provided from each Funded Solution in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

### 4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

- 4.1.1 To be eligible to apply for funding under the Program, an applicant must be an MNO or an MNIP. We cannot consider your application if you do not meet this eligibility requirement.
- 4.1.2 For the purposes of the Program, **MNO** means a company that:
- supplies a public mobile telecommunications service within the meaning of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cth); and
  - holds an apparatus or a spectrum licence (or both) for the supply of public mobile telecommunications services under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (Cth).
- 4.1.3 For the purposes of the Program, **MNIP** means a company, other than a MNO, that provides communications infrastructure in Australia or overseas, including the installation and operation of infrastructure to be used by one or more MNOs to provide public mobile telecommunications services.
- MNIP applications must be accompanied by written evidence of intent from at least one MNO to enter into a commercially binding commitment to use the infrastructure to deliver mobile services as described at section 4.2 for the Operational Period of the Proposed Solution. Funding may be awarded to eligible MNIPs on the condition that the MNIP and relevant MNO(s) enter into a binding commercial commitment prior to the finalisation of the Grant Agreement.
- 4.1.4 MNOs and MNIPs may also apply jointly for funding through the Program. Joint applications must be underpinned by commercially binding arrangements or the clear intention to enter into such arrangements should the application be successful. A grant may only be awarded to eligible joint applicants on the condition that the MNIP and relevant MNO enter into a binding commercial commitment prior to the finalisation of the Grant Agreement. The Commonwealth will only enter into a Grant Agreement with one of the joint applicants, being the Lead Applicant.

### 4.2 Minimum requirements

- 4.2.1 Unless indicated otherwise in these Guidelines, this section 4.2 sets out the minimum requirements that Grantees will need to comply with if their application is successful. These requirements will be included as schedules to the Grant Agreements. Under section 8.3, Proposed Solutions that do not meet the minimum requirements may be excluded from further consideration, at the Department's absolute discretion.
- 4.2.2 All Proposed Solutions must deliver Improved Handheld Coverage to an Eligible Location, as outlined in section 5.1. Where an application includes a Cluster Solution, all solutions that form part of the cluster must provide Handheld Coverage to an Eligible Location.
- 4.2.3 The Government's expectation is that Proposed Solutions will enable consumers to perform a range of functions using mobile devices, such as making and receiving phone calls, sending emails and text messages, browsing the internet, accessing online services, downloading files, using mobile apps, and accessing emergency communications services. To meet this expectation all Proposed Solutions must:
- deliver 4G broadband data services and a voice service; and
  - provide coverage modelling based on an Improved Handheld Coverage level with a Reference Signal Received Power (RSRP) at a 90 per cent confidence level for the cell area, as per the following table:

**Table 1: RSRP Coverage Modelling Requirements<sup>3</sup>**

Channel bandwidth	Threshold (dBm)
5	>-96
10	>-99
15	>-101
20	>-102

**Co-location and co-build**

- 4.2.4 Applicants and MNOs/other interested parties are encouraged to work together during the co-development discussion period to develop multi-MNO solutions. Applicants are solely responsible for forming relationships and discussions with any relevant third parties.
- 4.2.5 In addition to any arrangements negotiated with an MNO confirmed at the time of the application to provide services through the Proposed Solution, each Proposed Solution must offer co-location to other MNOs, or the applicant must provide evidence (as per section 4.2.8) that the Proposed Solution is unable to support an additional MNO for technical or other reasons (for example because the applicant does not own or control the site).
- 4.2.6 If a Proposed Solution is unable to support an additional MNO other than those already participating or is not capable of supporting co-location, applicants must provide a detailed explanation of why it is not technically feasible to reconfigure the Proposed Solution to support an additional MNO at incremental cost to the Co-locating MNO, or why it is not otherwise possible to offer co-location at the site. The Department’s technical advisor may review any technical advice from the applicant. If the Department’s view is that co-location is technically possible, then the applicant must be prepared to offer co-location at incremental cost to an MNO seeking to co-locate on the Proposed Solution, or the Department may remove the Proposed Solution from the assessment process.
- 4.2.7 Once an applicant is selected to build a Proposed Solution, it must give any other MNO(s) not already participating in the solution the opportunity to co-locate and to participate in the detailed design phase for that Funded Solution using the process set out in this section 4.2.7, noting section 4.2.6.
  - The incremental cost for a Funded Solution to support an additional MNO will be provided to the other participating MNOs to allow for greater transparency in co-location negotiations.
  - For Funded Solutions where other MNOs are interested in co-locating, the costs can be shared more broadly and efficiencies achieved if the interested MNOs can participate in the design and build phases, which should ensure that their reasonable specifications are accommodated in the design and construction of the Funded Solution. This opportunity relates to all the requirements necessary for co-location to efficiently occur, including (but not limited to) the height and robustness of the Funded Solution, as well as site space for housing equipment and providing access to power and Backhaul.
  - The Government is supportive of Grantees offering other MNOs the opportunity to co-invest in Funded Solutions including (but not limited to) provision of Backhaul.

---

<sup>3</sup> The RSRP level is calculated for an outdoor environment. These outdoor levels are expected to have a high probability of delivering good indoor coverage for typical premises.

4.2.8 For the purpose of providing the incremental cost of supporting an additional MNO, a Funded Solution must meet the following minimum specifications to be considered capable of supporting two or three MNOs:

- The structure is based on one of the following configurations:

**Table 2: Minimum specification configurations for co-location of multiple MNOs**

Configuration 1	Configuration 2	Configuration 3
3 x 1 panel antenna on a standalone headframe (Dimensions: 2533mm (h) x 353mm (w) x 209mm (d), Weight 32kg); or equivalent load	3 x 6 port antenna on a standalone headframe (Dimensions: 2680mm (h) x 300mm (w) x 146mm (d), Weight: 39.5kg)	3 x 10 port antenna on a standalone headframe (Dimensions: 2688mm (h) x 349mm (w) x 166mm (d), Weight 36.5kg)
3 x Tower Mounted Amplifiers Dimensions: (457mm (h) x 275mm (w) x 208mm (d), Weight 25kg); or equivalent load	6 x RRUs (Dimensions:400mm (h) x 300mm (w) x 150mm (d), Weight 20kg)	6 x RRUs (Dimensions: 400mm (h) x 300mm (w) x 100mm (d), Weight 13.5kg)
6 x feeders + 300mm cable gantry for monopole structure type sites	6 x combiners (Dimensions: 330mm (h) x 200mm (w) x 130mm (d), Weight 3.2kg)	2 x 600mm fixed link dishes; or equivalent load
2 x 600mm fixed link dishes; or equivalent load	2 x 600mm transmission dishes; or equivalent load	
	Other DC Cables and Junction Boxes	

- There is sufficient mains AC power provision to support the requirements of additional MNO equipment. This section 4.2.8 does not apply to solar powered sites, however, solar powered sites must have sufficient space for the additional MNO(s) to install additional solar panels.
- There is a communications hut of sufficient size (or space available on the site for further huts) to accommodate additional MNO equipment.
- For macrocell solutions, the Grantee must ensure sufficient space is available to allow any participating MNOs to install auxiliary back-up power supply which provides back-up power in the event of the loss of external power to the site up to the Program's minimum 12 hours standard.

4.2.9 MNOs interested in co-locating on a Funded Solution (i.e. the MNO expresses an interest in co-locating on Funded Solutions after funding has been awarded) will be required to express interest prior to the start of the detailed design stage for that Funded Solution. All parties will be required to negotiate in good faith with each other in relation to the Funded Solution access and price terms, and enter into commercial arrangements. The capital contribution to be made by the co-locating parties in respect of a Funded Solution must, at least, equal the incremental cost incurred by reason of provisioning co-location for that Funded Solution.

- 4.2.10 In accordance with the dispute resolution process outlined at sections 4.2.18 and 4.2.19, any disagreements regarding co-location matters will be determined by an independent third party, to be appointed at the MNOs'/MNIPs' shared cost, and in accordance with the dispute resolution process.
- 4.2.11 Following the process set out in sections 4.2.4 to 4.2.9, if it is ascertained that there is no interest in co-location from another MNO, the Grantee will not be required to design or build the site to allow for co-location.

### **Backhaul access and pricing**

- 4.2.12 Where a Grantee selected to build a Funded Solution reaches an agreement under sections 4.2.4 to 4.2.9 for an MNO not already participating in the Funded Solution (the Co-locating MNO) to co-locate on the Funded Solution, and subject to section 4.2.16, the Grantee must offer Backhaul to the Co-locating MNO if the Grantee is in a position to do so (see section 4.2.13).
- 4.2.13 The Grantee will be taken to be in a position to offer Backhaul to the Co-locating MNO if the Grantee owns or controls an optical fibre or microwave link which connects the Funded Solution to the Grantee's network.
- 4.2.14 The price at which the Grantee offers Backhaul to the Co-locating MNO must be more favourable than the regulated prices set under the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Domestic Transmission Capacity Service Final Access Determination (DTCS FAD), for example, by offering a defined rent-free period or other discounting mechanism.
- The ACCC has released the DTCS FAD 2020<sup>4</sup>, including a DTCS pricing calculator that may assist interested parties to calculate the regulated price for Backhaul.
- 4.2.15 Where a Grantee chooses to provide Backhaul to a Funded Solution using an optical fibre connection, it must ensure that it provides sufficient Backhaul capacity, transmission and interfacing equipment to meet the Backhaul requirements of any Co-locating MNO on the Funded Solution.
- 4.2.16 Where a Grantee chooses to provide Backhaul to a Funded Solution using a microwave connection, the Grantee must provide Backhaul services to a Co-locating MNO over that microwave connection, unless:
- the Funded Solution is designed and built to allow the Co-locating MNO to install, operate and maintain its own microwave Backhaul equipment on the Funded Solution; and
  - the Co-locating MNO is permitted to install, operate and maintain its own microwave Backhaul equipment on the Funded Solution.
- 4.2.17 The terms and pricing of Backhaul services provided by a Grantee to a Co-locating MNO must be negotiated commercially between the Grantee and Co-locating MNO in accordance with the principles set out in sections 4.2.12 to 4.2.16.

---

<sup>4</sup> [www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/communications/transmission-services-facilities-access/domestic-transmission-capacity-service-final-access-determination-inquiry-2019-2020/final-report](http://www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/communications/transmission-services-facilities-access/domestic-transmission-capacity-service-final-access-determination-inquiry-2019-2020/final-report)

## **Dispute resolution**

- 4.2.18 Disputes between parties in relation to co-location and Backhaul for a Funded Solution will be referred for determination to an independent third party expert, at the parties' own shared cost.
- 4.2.19 The Grantee and Co-locating MNO will be bound by the determination made by the independent third party expert.

## 5. What the grant money can be used for

### 5.1 Eligible grant activities

- 5.1.1 To be eligible for funding under the Program, each Proposed Solution must:
- deliver Handheld Coverage from the applicant's network – voice and data (sections 4.2.2 to 4.2.3) – to an Eligible Location (section 5.2); and
  - not be sited at a location identified on the applicant's 2021-22 to 2025-26 forward build network expansion or upgrade plans.

### 5.2 Eligible locations

- 5.2.1 Eligible Locations under the Program are those areas which are located within the Urban Fringe Area or are located within a Major Transport Passage.
- 5.2.2 For the purposes of the Program:
- the **Urban Fringe Area** is the corridor located either side of the 'Major Urban' boundary of the Major Cities.
    - the corridor extends to a distance of two kilometres (2 km) inside the Major Urban boundary, and 15 kilometres (15 km) outside the Major Urban boundary.
  - **Major Urban** areas are the Urban Centres and Localities geographical units classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2016 with a population of 100,000 or more<sup>5</sup>.
  - **Major Cities** are Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.
  - a **Major Transport Passage** is the corridor located either side of a road that is included in the National Land Transport Network (NLTN)<sup>6</sup>, and that exits the Urban Fringe Area, to a distance of 15 kilometres (15 km) from the Urban Fringe Area boundary.
    - the corridor extends to a distance of five kilometres (5 km) either side of the road.
- 5.2.3 The Department will provide map overlays showing Eligible Locations to Eligible Applicants upon request following registration. This will include the Urban Fringe Area and Major Transport Passages. The maps are also available at [www.infrastructure.gov.au/PUMPMaps](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/PUMPMaps).
- In the event of inconsistencies between the mapping layers and the Eligible Locations definitions, the mapping layers take precedence.
- 5.2.4 To enable the Program to target priority issues in the community, Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) who represent an electorate that covers local government areas within an Eligible Location will be invited to identify locations within their electorate that may benefit from improved coverage, following consultation with communities and local Emergency Service Organisations.
- MPs with an electorate that has more than 10 km<sup>2</sup> in the Eligible Locations (see section 5.2.1) will be invited to identify up to three locations of priority, ahead of the opening of the application process.

---

<sup>5</sup> Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, July 2016

<sup>6</sup> <https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/about/the-national-land-transport-network.aspx> provides PDFs of the NLTN by State/Territory for both road and rail.



- the Department will check that each identified priority location meets the eligibility criteria listed in section 5.2.1.
- these identified priority locations will be provided to applicants following registration.

### **5.3 Eligible expenditure**

- 5.3.1 Commonwealth funding under the Program will be available for up to 50% of the combined estimated Asset Capital Costs of building or installing Funded Solutions, and the capitalised net present value (using a discount rate equivalent to the 10-year Treasury Bond Rate applied at the date of the application) of Operational Costs over the minimum Operational Period of a Funded Solution.
- 5.3.2 Asset Capital Costs and Operational Costs must be clearly identified separately in the application, and will be considered as part of both the assessment against the Assessment Criteria and Value for Money assessment (section 6).
- 5.3.3 Grantees will be responsible for any actual Asset Capital Costs and/or Operational Costs that exceed estimated costs.

### **5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for**

- 5.4.1 Applicants must not seek Commonwealth funding for Proposed Solutions where they have already planned to invest commercially. All applicants must certify through the provision of a statutory declaration that any Proposed Solutions for which Commonwealth funds are being sought were not, at any time, part of their 2021-22 to 2025-26 forward-build plans.
- 5.4.2 The Department may audit a Grantee's compliance with section 5.4.1.
- 5.4.3 Proposed Solutions must be infrastructure projects and cannot consist of Consumer Level Products or Equipment.

## 6. The assessment criteria

### Criterion 1 – Level of improved mobile coverage (50 points)

6.1.1 Proposed Solutions will be assessed for the level of Improved Handheld Coverage to be provided in the Eligible Location. The assessment will consider three factors awarding up to 50 points:

- i) 20 Points – Proposed Solutions will be awarded up to 20 points based on the premises within the proposed solutions coverage area. The points will be allocated according to the following table:

Premises range	Points	Premises range	Points	Premises range	Points
1-5	1	60-70	8	160-180	15
5-10	2	70-80	9	180-200	16
10-20	3	80-90	10	200-250	17
20-30	4	90-100	11	250-300	18
30-40	5	100-120	12	300-400	19
40-50	6	120-140	13	>400	20
50-60	7	140-160	14		

- ii) 20 Points – Points will be awarded based on the amount of New Improved Handheld Coverage delivered by the Proposed Solution within the applicant's network in the Eligible Location. Proposed Solutions will be awarded up to 20 points according to the following table based on the amount of New Improved Handheld Coverage in square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>):

New Improved Handheld coverage range (km <sup>2</sup> )	Points	New Improved Handheld coverage range (km <sup>2</sup> )	Points	New Improved Handheld coverage range (km <sup>2</sup> )	Points
0 < x < 1.0	0.5	4	7	7.5	14
1.0	1	4.5	8	8.0	15
1.5	2	5.0	9	8.5	16
2.0	3	5.5	10	9.0	17
2.5	4	6.0	11	9.5	18
3.0	5	6.5	12	10.0	19
3.5	6	7.0	13	>11.5	20

- iii) 10 Points - The applicant's ability to demonstrate a Material Coverage Improvement that would be delivered by the Proposed Solution to the Eligible Location within the applicant's network, excluding benefits measured under 6.1.1. i) and 6.1.1. ii).

**New Improved Handheld Coverage** refers to the size (in square kilometres) of the mobile coverage footprint area, which will receive Improved Handheld Coverage where there is no Existing Handheld Coverage in the applicant's network.

**Material Coverage Improvement** refers to an improvement to the quality of service expected to be received in an Eligible Location. This should include evidence of coverage

improvement such as heat maps showing expected signal strength improvements, demonstrating doubling of signal strengths to an area with poor reception, site surveys identifying localised issues and expected improvements to localised black spot areas.

## Criterion 2 – Design, delivery and cost (40 points)

6.2.1 The design and delivery of the Proposed Solution will be assessed according to the following three factors, with up to a total of 40 points awarded:

- i) 10 Points - The applicant's (and partners'):
  - a. track record delivering similar solutions and access to personnel and/or partners with appropriate skills and experience. This should include evidence of sound project planning to manage and monitor the project covering scope, implementation methodology, timeframes, budget and risk;
  - b. ability to commence construction of the Proposed Solution, including:
    - i) availability of key personnel, equipment and finance; and
    - ii) access to, or secure future access to, any necessary infrastructure, power or Backhaul;
- ii) 20 Points - The number of additional MNOs confirmed to be participating in the Proposed Solution at the time of application, with more points being awarded for applications with a greater number of MNOs; and
- iii) 10 Points – Proposed Solutions will be awarded points based on the cost to the Commonwealth using the following table.

Cost (GST exclusive) (\$000s)	Points
0-\$199	10
\$200-\$299	9
\$300-\$399	8
\$400-\$499	7
\$500-\$599	6
\$600-\$699	5
\$700-\$799	4
\$800-\$899	3
\$900-\$999	2
\$1,000+	1

## Criterion 3 – Community support (20 points)

6.3.1 The level of community support will be assessed according to the following two factors, with up to a total of 20 points awarded:

- i) 10 Points - whether the Proposed Solution will provide Improved Handheld Coverage to a location identified as a priority by an MP (see section 5.2.4).
- ii) 10 Points - additional written support provided by an Emergency Service Organisation, community groups or other evidence of community support.

## 7. How to apply

### 7.1 Timing of Grant Opportunity processes

The Program will be implemented in ten key stages. A summary of each stage and indicative timing is provided below.

**Table 4: Expected timing for this Grant Opportunity**

Stage	Activity	Timing
1	Release of Guidelines and call for applications	14 December 2021
2	Applicant registration and pre-application documentation	Registration and pre-application documentation due by 18 January 2022 (5 weeks after opening)
3	Initial proposal period	Initial application due by 18 January 2022 (5 weeks after opening)
4	Co-development discussion period and submitting final applications	Final applications due by 18 February 2022 (9 weeks after opening)
5	Assessment of applications	February 2022 - March 2022 (4 weeks)
6	Grantees advised of outcomes and locations announced	March 2022
7	Negotiation of Grant Agreements	March 2022
8	Co-location negotiations	April 2022
9	Date of Rollout Completion	30 June 2024

### 7.2 Applicant registration

- 7.2.1 Before applying, applicants must read and understand these guidelines. Any alterations and addenda to the guidelines will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, applicants will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.
- 7.2.2 Potential applicants must register their interest with the Department and sign and provide a Non-Disclosure Agreement prior to being granted access to the Program documentation.

### 7.3 Pre-application lodgement

- 7.3.1 Upon registering as a potential applicant, MNOs who intend to submit applications for funding, or are partnering with potential applicants, under this Program must first submit their existing handheld 4G coverage information, incorporating the coverage from base stations funded under the Mobile Black Spot Program and Regional Connectivity Program and any base station funded under a State or Territory program, regardless of the stage of construction.
- 7.3.2 Existing handheld coverage information required at section 7.3.1 must be submitted to the Department by no later than 5pm (Canberra time), 18 January 2022. The Department may, at its absolute discretion, accept mobile coverage information submitted by MNOs after this date.

- 7.3.3 The existing handheld coverage information required in accordance with section 7.3.1 must be supplied as two separate layers as follows:
- Improved Handheld Coverage Maps: being a layer modelled to the Improved Handheld Coverage levels as set out in section 4.2.3; and
  - Existing Public Coverage Maps: being a layer representing the predictive handheld coverage modelling standards which underpin the publicly available coverage maps on the MNO's website.
- 7.3.4 For avoidance of doubt, the Existing Public Coverage Maps are requested for information purposes only. Assessment will only consider the Improved Handheld Coverage Maps (i.e. a "like-for-like" comparison).
- 7.3.5 Pre-application information can be submitted by any of the methods outlined at section 7.5.

## **7.4 Lodgement of initial proposals**

- 7.4.1 Registered applicants must lodge initial proposals for locations where they are interested in applying for funding under the Program to the Department by no later than 5pm (Canberra time), 18 January 2022. The Department may, at its absolute discretion, accept initial proposals submitted by MNOs after this date.
- 7.4.2 The registered applicants will provide this information using the "Initial Proposals" template provided in the Application Pack.
- 7.4.3 The Department will collate the lists of initial proposal locations and provide a consolidated list to all registered applicants. The consolidated list will include the following information for each initial proposal:
- an unique identifier;
  - the location;
  - type of base stations being considered (small cell / macro); and
  - the proponent's contact details.
- 7.4.4 Applicants and other interested parties have until closing of the application period to discuss and plan co-development and co-funding opportunities at these sites prior to finalising applications.
- 7.4.5 The list of locations will be treated as Confidential Information by the registered applicants in accordance with section 13.6.3 and the Non-Disclosure Agreement signed by each applicant.
- 7.4.6 Initial proposal information can be submitted by any of the methods outlined at section 7.5.

## **7.5 Completing and lodging an application**

- 7.5.1 Applications for funding must be lodged using the Application Pack provided following registration.
- 7.5.2 To seek funding for Proposed Solutions, applicants must complete the Assessment Tool from the Application Pack to provide information for each Proposed Solution for which they are seeking funding, specifying in each case:
- the location;
  - the total estimated all-up Asset Capital Cost of construction and the Operational Costs (GST inclusive), including, if required, Backhaul and power;

- the amount of co-contribution (GST inclusive) being provided by the applicant;
- the amount of Commonwealth co-contribution sought under the Program – noting the maximum funding amount as outlined in section 3.1;
- the amount (if any) of co-contributions (GST inclusive) to be received from third parties such as State, Territory or local governments, local communities, MNOs (other than an applicant) confirmed to provide services through the Proposed Solution, or any combination of these, and any specific requirements or conditions tied to the co-contributions (for information purposes);
- the extent to which the Proposed Solution meets the Assessment Criteria in section 6;
- whether the Proposed Solution is dependent on the construction of one or more of the applicant's other Proposed Solutions, and explaining the specific dependencies (for example between individual base stations included in the same Cluster Solution);
- predictive coverage mapping data for each Proposed Solution modelled to the Improved Handheld Coverage levels specified at section 4.2.3 and mapping data modelled to the level of coverage the applicant will publicly claim;
- written support (where necessary); and
- the number of MNOs confirmed to provide services through the Proposed Solution, and, if more than one, confirmation of the way in which multiple MNOs will provide services (e.g. RAN sharing, co-location).

Note: The applicant must agree that any predictive coverage mapping data supplied in the application can be used by the Department to prepare promotional material for the Program.

- 7.5.3 In addition, applicants must warrant that none of the Proposed Solutions for which Commonwealth funds have been sought were at any time part of their 2021-22 to 2025-26 forward-build network expansion or upgrade plans.
- 7.5.4 Applicants must indicate their compliance with the draft Grant Agreement (to be provided to registered applicants) at the time of submitting their applications. Where the terms of the draft Grant Agreement are not accepted in full, applicants are required to submit a revision marked version of the draft Grant Agreement reflecting their proposed drafting, their position and their reasons for requesting the change.
- 7.5.5 Where an applicant has previously agreed a grant agreement with the Commonwealth in another similar grant program that is administered by the Department (for example, the Mobile Black Spot Program) (Previous Grant Agreement) the applicant may request the Commonwealth consider using the Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for the Grant Agreement under this grant program. When making a request, the applicant must provide reasons addressing why utilising a Previous Grant Agreement would be appropriate. Requests of this nature must be received no later than 7 February 2022, being two weeks before close of applications.
- 7.5.6 The Department may, at its sole and absolute discretion, decide to agree to use the Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for the Grant Agreement. However, the Department is under no obligation to agree to any request made by an applicant to utilise a Previous Grant Agreement. Any decision by the Department will be final.
- 7.5.7 The applicant should identify any terms in the Previous Grant Agreement the applicant does not fully accept or which in its opinion require adaptation for this Program. At the point of application, the applicant is required to submit a revision marked version of the Previous

Grant Agreement reflecting its proposed drafting, its position and its reasons for requesting the change.

- 7.5.8 Where the Commonwealth has agreed to use a Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for the Grant Agreement under this Program, prior to commencement of negotiations, the Department will provide the applicant with details of the clauses from the Previous Grant Agreement that the Department considers will need to be amended to reflect the requirements of this Program. These requirements will be drawn from the sample Grant Agreement provided in the Application Pack.

Note: No contractual obligations arise for either party until a Grant Agreement satisfactory to the Commonwealth is negotiated and signed by the Commonwealth.

- 7.5.9 Details for contacting the Department to seek clarification or assistance with any aspects of completing an application are at section 7.9.

- 7.5.10 Applications can be lodged using GovTEAMS, the Australian Government's secure online document sharing and project management system. Potential applicants will be provided with information about lodging applications using GovTEAMS upon registering as a potential applicant for the Program. Potential applicants may request to use alternative online secure document sharing systems by agreement with the Department. Requests can be made by email to PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au, and should be received no later than two weeks prior to the closing of the application period.

- 7.5.11 All electronic files, regardless of transmission method, should be provided in an appropriate Microsoft compatible format. Geo-spatial information such as maps should be provided in either MapInfo TAB or MID/MIF; ESRI Shape; GML; or KML format.

- 7.5.12 The Department strongly prefers electronic applications. However, the Department may also accept applications via hard copy and/or physical electronic media if there is a reason why electronic submission is not feasible. Applicants wishing to make applications through physical means should contact the Department by email to PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au no later than four weeks prior to the closing of the application period.

- 7.5.13 The Department will acknowledge receipt of all applications by email to the applicant's nominated contact officer.

## **7.6 Closing date for funding applications**

- 7.6.1 The closing date for submitting an application for funding under the Program is 5.00pm (Canberra time), 18 February 2022.

## **7.7 Late applications**

- 7.7.1 Any decision by the Department on whether or not to accept a late application to the assessment process is wholly within the Department's absolute discretion and shall be final.

## **7.8 Further information about the application**

- 7.8.1 At any time during the initial registration, pre-application, application, or assessment processes, the Department may:
- contact applicants to check information that may be ambiguous, incorrect or unclear;
  - seek either additional information or seek clarification of certain information to assist its assessment of applications; and/or
  - seek expert advice to verify claims made.

## **7.9 Questions during the application process**

- 7.9.1 All requests for clarification or determination of the meaning of provisions in these Guidelines should be referred to the Department by email at [PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au). The Department's written decision on any matter is final.
- 7.9.2 Answers to questions may be posted on [GrantConnect](#) on a non-attributable basis.

## **7.10 Errors identified in applications**

- 7.10.1 If the applicant finds an error in their application after submitting it, they should contact the Department immediately at [PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au). The Department may, at its sole discretion, accept additional information from the applicant or a request to correct the error. However, the Department is under no obligation to accept any additional information or a request from the applicant to correct any applications after the Closing Date in section 7.6.



## **8. The grant selection process**

### **8.1 Application completeness check**

- 8.1.1 Following the closing date for applications, the Department will undertake an initial check to ensure each application is complete, that all necessary supporting documentation has been submitted as part of the application, and that it meets the Eligibility Criteria contained in section 4.1.

### **8.2 Risk assessment**

- 8.2.1 The Department will conduct an overall risk assessment in relation to the suitability of the applicants (and applications) for funding under the Program. The risk assessment will inform the Value for Money assessment. See section 8.4.5.

### **8.3 Evaluation and assessment**

- 8.3.1 Following confirmation that the applications are complete and the applicants meet the Eligibility Criteria in section 4.1, the Assessment Criteria in section 6 will be used to undertake the initial evaluation of applications received for the Program. This step will include an assessment of whether the minimum requirements set out in section 4.2 have been satisfied. Proposed Solutions that do not meet the minimum requirements may, at the Department's absolute discretion, be excluded from further consideration.
- 8.3.2 The Department will review each Proposed Solution against the Assessment Criteria, and will rank each Proposed Solution accordingly. Applicants must provide evidence to back up claims made in their applications, including mapping data on coverage claims in a format required by the Department (see section 7.5.11).
- 8.3.3 Following this review process, the Department will prepare a Draft Merit List containing the eligible Proposed Solutions ranked in accordance with the Assessment Criteria in section 6.

### **8.4 Value for Money**

- 8.4.1 The Department will undertake a Value for Money assessment for each Proposed Solution following the creation of the Draft Merit List, to finalise the Merit List. Recommendations for funding will use the processes, requirements and Assessment Criteria set out in these Guidelines.
- 8.4.2 Based on the overarching Value for Money assessment, the Department reserves the right to recommend funding one or more Proposed Solutions which were lower ranked against the Assessment Criteria than other Proposed Solutions within the Draft Merit List.
- 8.4.3 Based on the Value for Money assessment, the Department also reserves the right to recommend not funding one or more Proposed Solutions which are highly ranked against the Assessment Criteria within the Draft Merit List.
- 8.4.4 The Department may, at its absolute discretion, recommend increasing the level of Commonwealth funding for one or more Proposed Solutions above the maximum percentage per Proposed Solution as outlined in section 3.1.3, should it be considered of higher Value for Money.
- 8.4.5 The Department will finalise the Draft Merit List by conducting an overarching Value for Money assessment that will include, but is not necessarily limited to, consideration of:
- any relevant risk issues;
  - the Government's objectives for the Program;

- the Bushfire Priority Rating, which may be used to inform consideration of the relative bushfire loss potential of a site; and
- the degree in which competition is provided at a single solution, for example from at least two MNOs.

**Bushfire Priority Rating** - The CSIRO mapping data Bushfire Priority Areas (Bushfire Priority Coverage) provides a numerical value for each 100 metres squared area in the peri-urban fringe. This represents the bushfire priority based on bushfire loss potential and premises density.

## 8.5 Who will assess and evaluate applications?

- 8.5.1 An Evaluation Committee will assess and evaluate each application on its merit and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which grant proposals should be awarded a grant. The assessment committee will be made up of members of the Department.
- 8.5.2 An expert technical advisor in the mobile telecommunications industry, as appointed by the Department, may validate applicant coverage and/or quality of service claims at the Department's discretion. Other external advisors may also be asked to inform the assessment and evaluation process. Any advisor who is not an APS employee will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.
- 8.5.3 The Evaluation Committee may seek information about the applicant or their application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by the applicant as referees. The Evaluation Committee may also consider information about the applicant or their application that is available through publicly available information or the normal course of business.
- 8.5.4 If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in an application, the applicant may be contacted to correct or explain the information.

## 8.6 Who will approve grants?

- 8.6.1 The Decision Maker for the Program is the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts. The Decision Maker will review the recommendations, and may do one or more of the following:
- approve the recommendations;
  - seek further information from the Department or relevant experts or both; and
  - subject to section 13, make any amendments the Decision Maker deems necessary.
- 8.6.2 The Department will prepare the list of Funded Solutions (Decision Maker's List) based on the requirements and advice from the Decision Maker.
- 8.6.3 The Decision Maker will have the final decision on all applications for funding.

## **9. Notification of application outcomes**

### **9.1 Application outcomes**

- 9.1.1 The applicant will be advised of the outcomes of their application in writing, following a decision by the Decision Maker. If an applicant is successful, they will also be advised about any specific conditions attached to the grant.

### **9.2 Feedback on your application**

- 9.2.1 An applicant may ask for feedback from the Department within 14 days of being advised of the outcome. The Department will give the applicant written and/or verbal feedback within one month of feedback being requested.

## 10. Successful grant applications

### 10.1 The grant agreement

- 10.1.1. A sample Grant Agreement will be provided to registered applicants.
- 10.1.2 Each Grant Agreement will set out the Grantee's obligations in respect of the Funded Solutions, including the roll-out, co-location and service terms.

### 10.2 Termination, variation or amendment

- 10.2.1 The Government reserves the right to terminate or vary the Program (including via variation of these Guidelines) at its discretion, at any time, for any reason, including without limitation, in the light of changes to Government policy.
- 10.2.2 If the Government determines that these Guidelines require amendment prior to the date for which funding applications are due to be submitted to the Department, potential applicants will be advised of the revised or new Guidelines in a timely manner, including any resultant extension that may be applied to the application period. Any amendments and resultant extensions will be published on GrantConnect.
- 10.2.3 If the Government determines that these Guidelines require amendment following the date for which funding applications are due to be submitted to the Department (for example, if the applications received do not achieve the Program objectives), the revised or new Guidelines will clearly identify the extent, if any, to which the amended criteria will be applied to existing applications, and/or whether applicants will have the opportunity to re-submit an application based upon the revised criteria, and/or whether any new applicants will be considered. In this event, existing applicants will be notified in writing and via GrantConnect and the revised Guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.
- 10.2.4 An organisation submitting an application acknowledges that neither these Guidelines, nor any application, give rise to a binding agreement or any other binding legal arrangement or legal relationship between the applicant and the Commonwealth. There is no binding agreement on any party until a Grant Agreement is executed between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.
- 10.2.5 The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the Grant Agreement.

## 11. Announcement of grants

- 11.1 If successful, the applicant's grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website within 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by section 5.3 of the CGRGs.

## 12. How we monitor your grant activity

### 12.1 The Grantee's responsibilities

- 12.1.1 Grantees must meet the terms and conditions set out in the Grant Agreement.
- 12.1.2 Grantees will need to establish Baseline Data for measuring project and Program progress. This Baseline Data will be provided by the applicant in their application (refer to sections 7.3 and 7.5.2), which will subsequently form the basis of project progress reports.
- 12.1.3 Grantees will be required to maintain a publicly available online database for the construction phase of the Program, as specified in the Grant Agreement, which will include information regarding the status and progress of Funded Solutions.
- 12.1.4 Grantees will be required to provide and maintain a stakeholder engagement plan for the rollout of the Program, including relevant details for each Funded Solution. The plan should cover:
  - communication activities with relevant stakeholders including the local community, local councils and State and federal members of parliament; and
  - communication of updates to the community regarding any changes to the rollout of the Funded Solution (e.g. timing, location, expected coverage outcomes).
- 12.1.5 The Grantee must also inform the Department of any changes to their name, addresses, nominated contact details, or bank account details.
- 12.1.6 The Grantee must notify the Department of any key changes to their organisation or its business activities, particularly if these affect the Grantee's ability to complete their grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

### 12.2 The Department's responsibilities

- 12.2.1 The Department will:
  - meet the terms and conditions set out in the Grant Agreement;
  - provide timely administration of the grant; and
  - evaluate the Grantee's performance.
- 12.2.2 The Department will monitor the progress of the Grantee's project by assessing reports the Grantee submits and may conduct site visits to confirm details of the reports if necessary. Occasionally, the Department may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

### 12.3 Grant payments and GST

- 12.3.1 Payments will be made as set out in the Grant Agreement. If the applicant is registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable, the Department will add GST to the grant payment.
- 12.3.2 Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. The Department recommends that Grantees seek independent professional advice on their taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. The Department does not provide advice on an applicant's particular taxation circumstances.

### 12.4 Evaluation

- 12.4.1 The Program will be evaluated by the Department against key performance indicators (KPIs) as agreed with each Grantee. The Department will use the KPIs to monitor, measure and report on progress, outputs, outcomes and benefits of the Program.
- 12.4.2 Grantees will be required to participate in Program reviews and evaluations.

## 13. Probity

### 13.1 Accountability and probity

- 13.1.1 The Department is committed to ensuring that the process for selecting and approving Funded Solutions under the Program is fair, conducted in accordance with these Guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct, and is consistent with the CGRGs.
- 13.1.2 The Department, as a non-corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (the PGPA Act), in relation to its investment in the Program, must comply with:
- the various duties set out in section 15 of the PGPA Act including promoting the proper use and management of public resources for which the Department is responsible; promoting the achievement of the purposes of the Department; and promoting the financial sustainability of the Department;
  - section 16 of the PGPA Act which requires the Department to establish and maintain appropriate systems of risk oversight and management and an appropriate system of internal controls; and
  - the CGRGs, which establish the overarching Commonwealth grant policy framework and articulate the expectations for the Department (including but not limited to a range of probity and reporting requirements).

### 13.2. Enquiries and feedback

- 13.2.1 The Department's Feedback and Complaints Procedures apply to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.
- Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to [PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au).
- 13.2.2 If you do not agree with the way the Department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072  
Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)

- 13.2.3 Applicants should note that the Commonwealth Ombudsman can only review the Program's assessment processes, not any specific funding decision, under the Program.

### 13.3 Conflicts of interest

- 13.3.1 Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the Grant Opportunity. There may be an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest if the Department's staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or the eligible applicant or any of the eligible applicant's personnel has a:
- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the Selection Process, such as an Australian Government officer;
  - 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

- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the Program.
- 13.3.2 Applicants will be asked to declare, as part of their application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.
- 13.3.3 If an applicant later identifies an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest, it must inform the Department in writing immediately.
- 13.3.4 Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled in accordance with the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth) and applicable Australian Government policy and legal requirements. Evaluation Committee members and other officials including the Decision Maker must also declare any conflicts of interest in accordance with the probity requirements of the Program.

## **13.4 Costs**

- 13.4.1 The Department will not, in any circumstances, meet any costs or expenses incurred by an applicant in connection with their application. Applicants must bear their own costs and expenses associated with the application and assessment process, and the preparation, negotiation and execution of the Grant Agreement and of other documentation.

## **13.5 Background checks**

- 13.5.1 The Department may undertake checks on organisations submitting an application for the Program (including the applicant's personnel). It may also undertake consultations with other relevant third parties regarding any application. The Department may also conduct checks to obtain any relevant information not disclosed in an application.
- 13.5.2 As part of these checks, the Department reserves the right to use information from:
- the Department's databases;
  - other Government agencies, such as the Australian Taxation Office and Australian Securities and Investments Commission;
  - State or Territory agencies;
  - law enforcement agencies;
  - credit reference agencies;
  - courts or tribunals;
  - other public sources of information; and
  - any other appropriate organisation or person.

## **13.6 Confidentiality**

- 13.6.1 The Department will treat the applicant's commercially sensitive information provided in their application as Confidential Information provided that the information is designated as Confidential Information (Applicant Confidential Information).
- 13.6.2 The Department's confidentiality obligation does not apply to the extent any Applicant Confidential Information is:
- authorised or required by law to be disclosed;
  - disclosed by the Department to its advisers, officers, employees, or other agencies' officers or employees, for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's application and during any Grant Agreement negotiations;



- disclosed by the Department in response to a request by a house or a committee of the Parliament of Australia, or a house or a committee of the Parliament of a state or territory;
- disclosed by the Department to its responsible Minister and his or her advisors or the Auditor-General and the APS employees assisting the Auditor-General;
- shared by the Commonwealth within the Commonwealth (for example, another Commonwealth agency), where this serves the Commonwealth's legitimate interests;
- disclosed to the Department's officers to enable the effective management or auditing of the Program; or
- in the public domain otherwise than due to a breach of the Department's confidentiality obligations.

13.6.3 The applicant will treat any information provided by the Department as Confidential Information provided that the information is designated as Confidential Information. (Commonwealth Confidential Information).

13.6.4 The applicant's confidentiality obligation does not apply to the extent any Commonwealth Confidential Information is:

- authorised or required by law to be disclosed; or
- in the public domain otherwise than due to a breach of the applicant's confidentiality obligation.

13.6.5 The Department may share with State or Territory governments (on a confidential basis) any or all information contained in applications which it considers relevant to the respective jurisdiction based on the location of the Proposed Solution(s), including costings for Proposed Solutions that are not successful in receiving funding through the Program.

## 13.7 Intellectual Property rights

13.7.1 By submitting an application under the Program, to the extent the applicant's application contains:

- its Intellectual Property; or
- a third party's Intellectual Property,

the applicant grants by the making of its application, (or will procure for) the Commonwealth a permanent, irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, non-exclusive licence (including a right of sublicense) to use, reproduce, adapt, and communicate the applicant's (or third party's) Intellectual Property contained in its application under the Program provided the use, reproduction, adaptation, or communication is in connection with any assessment processes under, or the evaluation of, or promotion of the Program.

13.7.2 Any licence granted to the Commonwealth in relation to Intellectual Property rights does not include a right to exploit the Intellectual Property for commercial purposes.

## 13.8 Privacy of individuals

13.8.1 The Department treats personal information in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Privacy Act). The Privacy Act contains 13 Australian Privacy Principles (the APPs) which govern how the Department collects, uses and discloses personal and sensitive information, and how individuals can access and correct records containing their personal or sensitive information.

- 13.8.2 The Department is committed to protecting personal information appropriately. If individuals within the applying organisation wish to deal with the Department anonymously or by using a pseudonym, it should advise the Departmental contact officer for the Program or contact the Department's Privacy Officer (see details below).

### **13.9 Personal information to be collected by the Department**

- 13.9.1 The Department may collect personal information in the applicant's application and this may include names, and contain details and other personal information, which the applicant (or its personnel) has supplied to the Department in its application under the Program.
- 13.9.2 By providing the Department with personal information in the applicant's application under the Program, the applicant (and its named personnel) consents to the Department collecting, using and disclosing that personal information in accordance with these Guidelines and for the purposes of the Program.
- 13.9.3 If the applicant (or its personnel) does not consent to the Department's collection, use and disclosure of the personal information contained in its application under the Program, in accordance with these Guidelines, the applicant acknowledges that this may mean that the Department may not be able to progress or assess the application further for funding under the Program and that the application may be set aside under the assessment process.

### **13.10 Purpose for which the Department will use and disclose personal information**

- 13.10.1 By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges that the Department may collect personal information from the applicant (and its personnel) contained in its application for the purpose of carrying out the activities and functions of the Department related to the Program. In order to carry out its functions and activities connected to the Program, the Department may use the collected personal information for the purpose of any assessment processes under, or the evaluation of, the Program.
- 13.10.2 Further, in order to carry out its functions and activities connected to the Program, including (without limitation) assessment and evaluation functions, the Department may also disclose the collected personal information to other Commonwealth, State or Territory agencies.
- 13.10.3 The Department will use the personal information collected from the applicant for the primary purpose for which it was collected. The Department may use or disclose this personal information for another purpose (i.e. secondary purpose) if:
- the applicant would reasonably expect the information to be used for the secondary purpose;
  - it is required or authorised by law or a permitted general situation exists under the Privacy Act;
  - the applicant gives the Department permission; or
  - the Department reasonably believes the use or disclosure is reasonably necessary for one or more enforcement related activities conducted by, or on behalf of, an enforcement body.

### **13.11 The Department's contact point for privacy matters**

- 13.11.1 For further information about how the Department is committed to protecting personal information appropriately in accordance with the APPs, see the Department's APP Privacy Policy on its website at [www.infrastructure.gov.au/utilities/privacy.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/utilities/privacy.aspx)

13.11.2 For further information about the Department's handling of personal information, contact the Department's Privacy Officer by sending an email to [privacy@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:privacy@infrastructure.gov.au) or by writing to the Department at the following address:

Privacy Officer  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

13.11.3 General information about the Privacy Act and the APPs can also be found on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website at [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au).

## **13.12 Exclusion of liabilities**

13.12.1 To the greatest extent possible in law, the Department is not liable to applicants on the basis of a process contract (express or implied), promissory estoppel, equitable, restitutionary, contractual or quasi-contractual grounds or any other legal or equitable principle or theory, in relation to the Selection Process, including without limitation, when the Department:

- varies or terminates all or any part of the Selection Process or any negotiations;
- decides not to fund any or all of the activities sought through the Selection Process;
- varies the Selection Process; or
- exercises or fails to exercise any of its other rights under, or in relation to, these Guidelines.

## **13.13 Disclaimer**

13.13.1 The Commonwealth, the Department and its officers, employees, agents and advisors:

- are not, and will not be, responsible or liable for the accuracy or completeness of any information in or provided in connection with these Guidelines and associated forms;
- make no express or implied representation or warranty that any statement as to future matters will prove correct;
- disclaim any and all liability arising from any information provided to the applicants, including, without limitation, errors in, or omissions contained in, that information;
- except so far as liability under any statute cannot be excluded, accept no responsibility arising in any way from errors or omissions contained in any information in these Guidelines and associated forms; and
- accept no liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of that person, or any other person, placing reliance on the contents of these Guidelines and associated forms, or any other information provided by the Department.

## **13.14 Fraud prevention**

13.14.1 Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) and the Department will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

## **13.15 Freedom of Information**

- 13.15.1 All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)* (FOI Act).
- 13.15.2 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.
- 13.15.3 All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Department's Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing at [foi@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:foi@infrastructure.gov.au).

## 14. Consultation

- 14.1 In July 2021, the Department released the draft Guidelines seeking public feedback on the proposed design of the Program. This feedback was considered in preparing these Guidelines.

## 15. Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>4G</b>	Fourth generation mobile telecommunications service.
<b>Application Pack</b>	Has the meaning given in section 7.5.1.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	The specified principles or standards in section 6 against which applications will be assessed. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive Grant Opportunity, to determine application rankings.
<b>Assessment Form</b>	Appendix B to the Application Pack.
<b>Assessment Tool</b>	Has the meaning given in section 7.5.2.
<b>Asset Capital Costs (CAPEX)</b>	The costs to purchase and build physical assets under the Program.
<b>Backhaul</b>	A link between the core or backbone of a network and sub-networks, transporting data from a series of disparate locations to a more centralised location.
<b>Baseline Data</b>	The applicant's existing coverage and the amount of new coverage which each Funded Solution would provide will be used as the mobile coverage baseline data for section 12.1.2.
<b>Bushfire Priority Areas</b>	Those areas identified as being high or medium priority in the provided Bushfire Priority Areas mapping data.
<b>Cluster Solution</b>	A Proposed Solution comprising two or more (to a maximum of fifteen) base stations that the applicant is putting forward as a single proposal due to economic and/or network design benefits.
<b>Co-locating MNO</b>	Has the meaning given in section 4.2.
<b>Commonwealth entity</b>	See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
<b><u><a href="#">Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)</a></u></b>	Rules that 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.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Confidential Information</b>	Applicant Confidential Information and Commonwealth Confidential Information as defined in section 13.6.1 and section 13.6.3.
<b>Consumer Level Products or Equipment</b>	Non-infrastructure telecommunication products purchased for the consumption by a limited number of users.
<b>Date of Rollout Completion</b>	Has the meaning given in stage 9 of section 7.1.
<b>Decision Maker</b>	The Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts.
<b>Decision Maker's List</b>	Has the meaning given in section 9.2.2.
<b>Department</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.
<b>Draft Merit List</b>	The ranked list of Proposed Solutions following the assessment process, but before Value for Money considerations.
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	The mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment Criteria may apply in addition to Eligibility Criteria.
<b>Eligible Location</b>	Has the meaning given in section 5.2.
<b>Emergency Service Organisation</b>	A recognised local, state, territory or federal organisation with responsibilities for delivering emergency assistance to the public, or responding to or managing bushfires.
<b>Existing Handheld Coverage</b>	<p>Coverage able to be obtained with a handheld mobile device within the applicant's mobile network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that is currently available;</li> <li>• that will be provided by any base station that will be delivered by the applicant under a round of the Mobile Black Spot Program or other Commonwealth grant program; or</li> </ul> <p>that will be provided by any applicant base station funded under a State or Territory program.</p>
<b>Funded Solution</b>	Solution selected for funding under the Program.
<b>Grant Agreement</b>	The agreement which sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and the Grantee, and specifies the details of the grant and responsibilities in relation to the grant.

Term	Definition
<a href="#">GrantConnect</a>	The Australian Government’s whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs.
Grant Opportunity	The specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential applicants. 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 [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
Grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Improved Handheld Coverage	Has the meaning given in section 4.2.3.
Intellectual Property	Includes: (a) all copyright (including rights in relation to phonograms and broadcasts); (b) all rights in relation to inventions, plant varieties, trademarks (including service marks), designs, circuit layouts; and (c) all other rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields.
Lead Applicant	The responsible entity for application, funding and reporting purposes.
Macrocell	The widest range of cell sizes used in a mobile phone network served by a mobile base station, often used in rural areas and along highways. Macrocells generally provide larger coverage than small cell base stations or microcells, with a typical power output of tens of watts.
Merit List	The list of Proposed Solutions that the Department will recommend to the Decision Maker when the assessment process and Value for Money consideration is completed (refer to section 8.4.1).
Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider or MNIP	Has the meaning given in section 4.1.3.
Mobile Network Operator or MNO	Has the meaning given in section 4.1.2.



Term	Definition
New Improved Handheld Coverage	Coverage from a Proposed Solution that will be able to be obtained with a handheld mobile device in areas that do not receive Existing Handheld Coverage.
Operational Costs (OPEX)	Costs for additional goods or services that are purchased for the ongoing operation of an asset.
Operational Period	The length of time that an asset is required to provide services for which it was funded under the Program.
Previous Grant Agreement	Has the meaning given in section 7.5.5.
Program	The Peri-Urban Mobile Program.
Proposed Solution	Infrastructure for which an applicant has sought funding under the Program.
Reference Signal Received Power (RSRP)	The 4G received signal power in a long-term evolution (LTE) network measured in decibels per milliwatt (dBm).
Selection Process	The method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the Eligibility Criteria and/or the Assessment Criteria.
Small Cell	A 'small cell' in a mobile phone network, with a typical range less than two kilometres. Often used to add network capacity in areas of dense population or very remote locations, utilising power control to limit coverage area. These are also known as microcells.
Value for Money	'Value for money' in these Guidelines refers to achieving 'value with relevant money' based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations in accordance with the CGRGs and section 8.4.