



Australian Government

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

Peri-Urban Mobile Program Round 2 Grant Opportunity Guidelines

December 2023

Opening date:	18 December 2023
Closing date and time:	17:00 AEDT on 11 March 2024 (12 weeks after opening)
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than two weeks before the closing date
Date guidelines released:	18 December 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Targeted competitive



Ownership of intellectual property rights in this publication

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights, if any) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to below as the Commonwealth).

Use of the Coat of Arms

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet sets the terms under which the Coat of Arms is used. Please refer to the Commonwealth Coat of Arms - Information and Guidelines publication available at <http://www.pmc.gov.au>.

Contact us

This publication is available in Word or PDF format. All other rights are reserved, including in relation to any departmental logos or trademarks which may exist. For enquiries regarding the licence and any use of this publication, please contact:

Director – Creative Services
Communication Branch
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

Email: publishing@infrastructure.gov.au

Website: www.infrastructure.gov.au

Table of contents

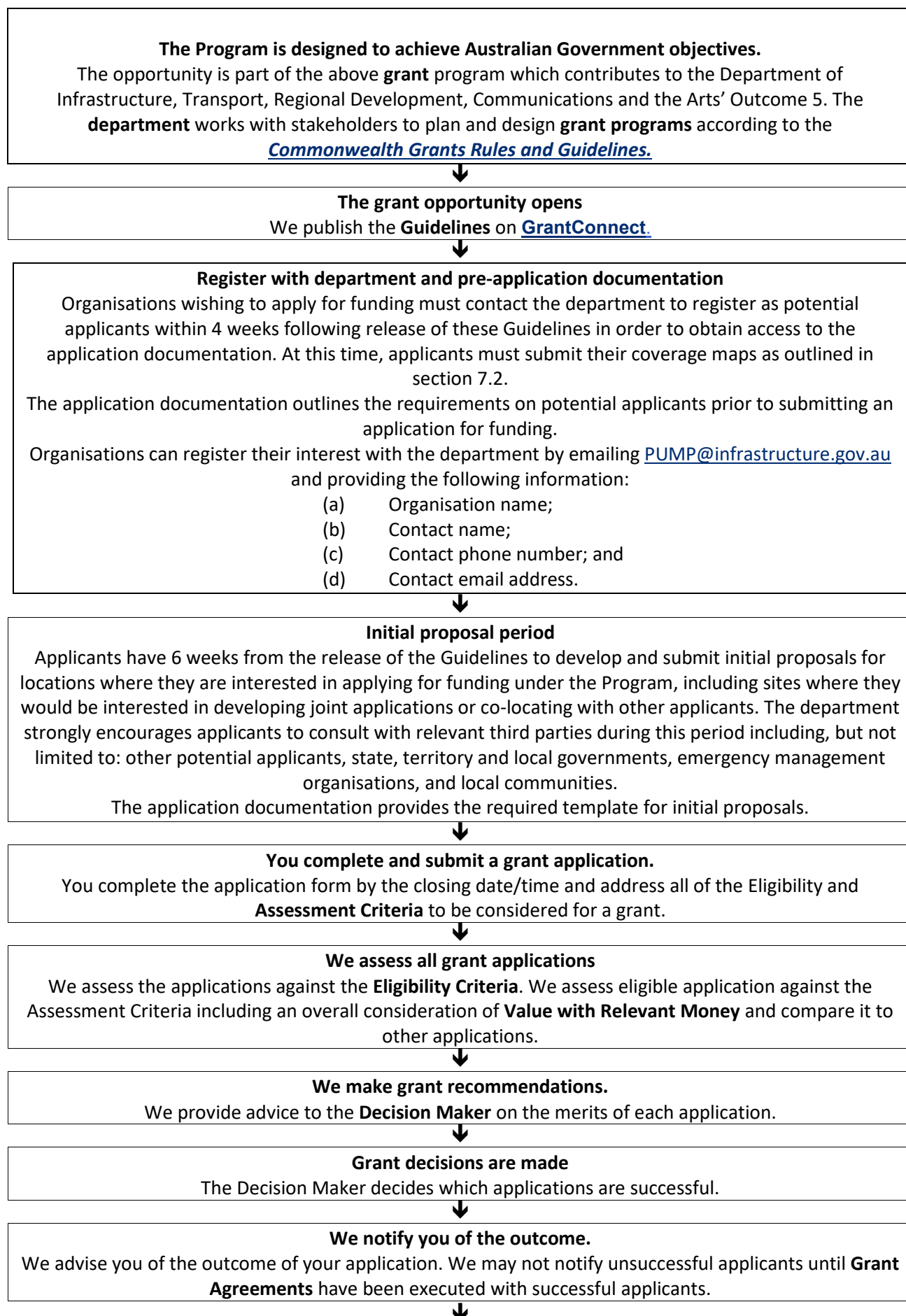
Peri-Urban Mobile Program Round 2: processes	5
1. Introduction	7
1.1. Introduction.....	7
2. About the grant program	7
2.1. About the Program.....	7
3. Grant amount and grant period	8
3.1. Grants available.....	8
3.2. Applicant co-contribution	8
3.3. Third Party funding co-contributions	8
3.4. In-kind co-contributions	9
3.5. Grant period	9
4. Eligibility criteria	10
4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?.....	10
4.2. Minimum requirements	11
Services required.....	11
Back-up Power.....	11
Multi-MNO solutions – Active sharing, Co-location and co-build	11
Backhaul access and pricing	13
Dispute resolution	14
5. What the grant money can be used for	14
5.1. Eligible grant activities.....	14
5.2. Eligible locations.....	14
5.3. Eligible expenditure.....	15
5.4. What the grant money cannot be used for	16
6. The assessment criteria	17
6.1. Criterion 1: New Improved Handheld Coverage (25 Points)	17
6.2. Criterion 2: Premises within New Improved Handheld Coverage Area (15 Points)	18
6.3. Criterion 3: Cost to the Commonwealth (20 Points)	19
6.4. Criterion 4: Material Coverage Improvement (20 Points).....	19
6.5. Criterion 5: Multi-MNO Solutions –Additional MNO service offerings (20 Points).....	20
7. How to apply	21
7.1. Applicant registration.....	21
7.2. Pre-application lodgement.....	22
7.3. Submit initial proposals for Proposed Solutions	22
7.4. Completing and lodging an application.....	23
7.5. Costing Arrangements for MNIP-led applications.....	25
7.6. Joint (consortia) applications	26
7.7. Closing date for funding applications.....	27
7.8. Late applications.....	27
7.9. Further information about the application	27
7.10. Questions during the application process.....	27
7.11. Errors identified in applications	27
8. The grant selection process	28
8.1. Assessment of grant applications.....	28
8.2. Value with Relevant Money	28
8.3. Who will assess applications?	30
8.4. Who will approve grants?	30
9. Notification of application outcomes	31
9.1. Application outcomes.....	31
9.2. Feedback on your application	31
10. Successful grant applications	31
10.1. The grant agreement.....	31

10.2.	Specific legislation, policies and industry standards	32
10.3.	How we pay the grant	33
10.4.	Grant payments and GST.....	33
10.5.	Amendment to these Guidelines.....	33
11.	<u>Announcement of grants</u>	34
12.	<u>How we monitor your grant activity</u>	34
12.1.	Keeping us informed	34
12.2.	Reporting.....	34
12.3.	Asset completion report.....	35
12.4.	Financial declaration or audited financial acquittal reports	35
12.5.	Independent audit report.....	35
12.6.	Grant agreement variations	35
12.7.	Compliance visits.....	35
12.8.	Evaluation.....	35
12.9.	Acknowledgement.....	36
13.	<u>Probity</u>	36
13.1.	Grant opportunity probity.....	36
13.2.	Enquiries and feedback	36
13.3.	Conflicts of interest	36
13.4.	Privacy	37
13.5.	Confidential Information	38
13.6.	Intellectual Property rights.....	38
13.7.	Freedom of Information	39
14.	<u>Consultation</u>	39
15.	<u>Glossary</u>	39

List of figures and tables

Table 1:	Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution	16
Table 2:	4G New Improved Handheld Coverage Scoring Matrix (Part 1)	17
Table 3:	5G New Improved Handheld Coverage Scoring Matrix (Part 2)	17
Table 4:	Coverage Loading	18
Table 5:	Premises Scoring Matrix (Category A)	18
Table 6:	Premises Scoring Matrix (Category B)	19
Table 7:	Cost to the Commonwealth Scoring Matrix	19
Table 8:	Material Coverage Improvement Scoring Matrix	20
Table 9:	Expected timing for this Grant Opportunity.....	21
Glossary.....		39

Peri-Urban Mobile Program Round 2: processes



We enter into a Grant Agreement

We will enter into a Grant Agreement with you if you are successful. The terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement will depend on the risk profile of your **Grant Activity**.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the Grant Activity as set out in your Grant Agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Program

We evaluate your specific Grant Activity and the Program as a whole. We base this both on the information you provide to us and that which we collect from various sources.

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. These **Grant Opportunity** Guidelines (Guidelines) contain information for Round 2 of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program (**the Program**). This document sets out:
- the purpose of the Program;
 - the Eligibility 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.
- 1.1.2. You must read these Guidelines before filling out an application.
- 1.1.3. This grant opportunity will be administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (**the department**).
- 1.1.4. Consistent with the **Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines** (CGRGs)¹ this grant opportunity is categorised as a targeted competitive funding round as it is open to a small number of potential grantees based on the specialised requirements of the grant activity under consideration.
- 1.1.5. We have defined key terms used in the Guidelines in the Glossary at section 15.

2. About the grant program

2.1. About the Program

The Australian Government committed \$39.1 million to a further two rounds of the Program in the October 2022–23 Budget.

The objective of the Program is to improve mobile phone reception in peri-urban fringe areas that are at threat of bushfire and other **natural disasters** (see section 5.2 for **Eligible Locations**), by co-funding with Mobile Network Operators' (**MNOs**) and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers' (**MNIPs**) new or upgraded telecommunications infrastructure.

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. Previously, under Round 1 of the Program, 66 new mobile base stations across 50 locations received funding.

The department is responsible for administering the Program on behalf of the Government. The Program contributes to the department's *Outcome 5: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services.*

The Government will not own and is not responsible for the operation of the infrastructure, aside from any co-contributions provided for **operational costs** during the **Operational Period**. Grantees will own and/or hold necessary rights to the infrastructure to deliver the contracted services during the

¹ www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf

Operational Period. While the Government encourages Grantees to continue to provide services into the future, asset ownership and operation beyond the Operational Period is a matter for Grantees.

The department administers the Program in accordance with the [CGRGs](#). The Commonwealth has the power to make, vary or administer this grant program under Item 496 of the table in Part 4 of Schedule 1AB to the Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997 (Cth).

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

- 3.1.1. Up to \$20 million (**GST** exclusive) will be available for applications under Round 2 of the Program. Funding will be made available over four financial years, from 2023–24 to 2026–27.
- 3.1.2. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount under the Program, noting the total grant amount must not exceed \$20 million (see section 3.1.1).
- 3.1.3. All **Proposed Solutions** will be eligible for a Commonwealth contribution of up to 50 per cent of the Total Solution Cost under the Program (**Commonwealth Contribution**). An **Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution** will be available to specific solution types as outlined at section 5.3 and Table 1.
- 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. All Grantees will be expected to make a financial (cash) co-contribution to the capital costs of building or installing each **Funded Solution**, as well as ongoing operational expenses over the Operational Period specified at section 3.5.2.
- 3.2.2. 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, emergency service organisations 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 that would be considered desirable to be covered by the Proposed Solution. A [Project Noticeboard](#) has been established to help local councils and community groups identify mobile coverage, reception and quality of service issues to further assist applicants develop their proposals. The Noticeboard is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/pump.

- 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 party's 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 be required to 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 particular 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.

3.5. Grant period

- 3.5.1. All Funded Solutions must be completed by the date specified in the respective Grant Agreement. The maximum time available to complete a Funded Solution is 36 months from the date of commencement 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 a minimum period of ten (10) years after the Funded Solution has (have) become operational.

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 you must:

- have an **Australian Business Number (ABN)**
- be registered for the purposes of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

and be one of the following entity types:

- a **Mobile Network Operator (MNO)**; or
- a **Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider (MNIP)**.

- 4.1.2. For the purposes of the Program, a **MNO** means a company that:

- Supplies a public mobile telecommunications service within the meaning of the *Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)*;
- Holds an apparatus or a spectrum licence (or both) for the supply of public mobile telecommunications services under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992 (Cth)*; and
- Operates a mobile network that provides mobile coverage to at least 80% of the Australian population.

- 4.1.3. For the purposes of the Program, **MNIP** means a company, other than an 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.

- 4.1.4. 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 (see section 3.5.2). 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.

- 4.1.5. MNOs and/or 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 relevant parties 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**.

- 4.1.6. The ownership of assets constructed as part of an MNIP-led or joint applications is a matter for the respective parties and subject to the terms of their commercial agreement.

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 8.1, Proposed Solutions that do not meet the minimum requirements may be excluded from further consideration, at the department's absolute discretion.

Services required

- 4.2.2. All Proposed Solutions must deliver **New Improved Handheld Coverage** to an Eligible Location, as outlined in section 5.2. Where an application includes a **Cluster Solution**, all solutions that form part of the cluster must provide New Improved 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**, and preferably also **5G**, broadband data services and a voice service; and
 - provide coverage modelling based on a New Improved Handheld Coverage level with a **Reference Signal Received Power (RSRP) of -85 dBm, -95 dBm and -105 dBm** for 4G and 5G services, at 90 per cent confidence levels for the cell area.
- 4.2.4. Where an applicant has existing 5G handheld coverage in (or adjacent to) an Eligible Location, it is expected that they will also offer 5G broadband data services to the Eligible Location through the Proposed Solution. Applicants must provide sufficient justification where it is not feasible to do so.

Back-up Power

- 4.2.5. All **Macrocell** base stations in Funded Solutions must have an auxiliary back-up power supply which provides back-up power for a minimum of 12 hours in the event of the loss of external power to the site.
- 4.2.6. Other base stations (e.g. **Small Cells**) in Funded Solutions must have an auxiliary back-up power supply which provides back-up power for a minimum of 12 hours in the event of the loss of external power to the site, unless (to the satisfaction of the department) it is not feasible to do so.
- Applicants should provide sufficient justification for Proposed Solutions where it is not feasible to provide a minimum of 12 hours back-up power supply.

Multi-MNO solutions – Active sharing, Co-location and co-build

- 4.2.7. Applicants and MNOs/other interested parties are encouraged to work together to develop **Multi-MNO solutions**, including Proposed Solutions that use active sharing technologies and/or mobile roaming. Applicants are solely responsible for forming relationships and discussions with any relevant third parties.

- 4.2.8. In addition to any arrangements negotiated with an MNO confirmed at the time of the application to provide services through a Proposed Solution, each Proposed Solution must offer co-location to other MNOs, or the applicant must provide evidence (as per section 4.2.9) 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).
- 4.2.9. 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 MNO that has agreed to co-locate at the time of the application, 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.
- 4.2.10. 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 section 4.2.10 - 4.2.13.
- 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 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.
 - Applicants are solely responsible for obtaining the necessary specifications from all MNOs that have confirmed, or are interested in co-location, and ensuring these specifications can be accommodated at the respective site.
 - 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.
- 4.2.11. 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.

- 4.2.12. In accordance with the dispute resolution process outlined at sections 4.2.20 and 4.2.21, any disagreements regarding co-location matters will be determined by an independent third party, to be appointed at the respective parties shared cost, and in accordance with the dispute resolution process.
- 4.2.13. Following the process set out in sections 4.2.8 - 4.12, 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

- 4.2.14. Where a Grantee selected to build a Funded Solution reaches an agreement under sections 4.2.8 - 4.2.12 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 4.2.19, the Grantee must offer Backhaul to the Co-locating MNO if the Grantee is in a position to do so (see section 4.2.16).
- 4.2.15. 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.
- 4.2.16. The price at which the Grantee offers Backhaul to any Co-locating MNOs 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 2020², including a DTCS pricing calculator that may assist interested parties to calculate the regulated price for Backhaul.
- 4.2.17. 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.
- 4.2.18. Where a Grantee chooses to provide Backhaul to a Funded Solution using a microwave connection, the Grantee must provide Backhaul services to any Co-locating MNO over that microwave connection, unless:
- the Funded Solution is designed and built to allow Co-locating MNOs to install, operate and maintain their own microwave Backhaul equipment on the Funded Solution; and
 - the Co-locating MNOs are permitted to install, operate and maintain their own microwave Backhaul equipment on the Funded Solution.
- 4.2.19. The terms and pricing of Backhaul services provided by a Grantee to any Co-locating MNO must be negotiated commercially between the Grantee and Co-locating MNO in accordance with the principles set out in sections 4.2.15 to 4.2.18.

² www.accc.gov.au/public-registers/telecommunications-registers/s152bcw-access-determinations-register/final-access-determination-no-2-of-2020-for-the-domestic-transmission-capacity-service-dtcs

Dispute resolution

- 4.2.20. 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.
- 4.2.21. The Grantee and Co-locating MNOs 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 New Improved 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 participating MNO/s 2023-24 to 2026-27 forward build network expansion or upgrade plans.
- 5.1.2. Applicants may propose any infrastructure solution or combination of solutions (**Cluster Solution**), so long as it delivers the relevant minimum standards specified at section 4.2.

5.2. Eligible locations

- 5.2.1. Eligible Locations under Round 2 of the Program are those areas which are located within the Urban Fringe Area or are located within a Major Transport Passage. Subject to network requirements, Proposed Solutions may be located in an area adjacent to an Eligible Location provided they deliver the relevant minimum requirements (see section 4.2) to an Eligible Location.
- 5.2.2. For the purposes of the Program, the eligible area boundary is available on the department's website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/PUMPMaps. The eligible area has been derived based on the following method, with adjustments made to these areas where necessary to ensure consistency across the eligible areas, and to account for local terrain.
- 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 2021 with a population of 100,000 or more³.
 - **Major Cities** are Adelaide, Ballarat, Bendigo, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra/Queanbeyan, Central Coast, Darwin, Geelong, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads, Hobart, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sunshine Coast, Sydney, Toowoomba, Townsville and Wollongong.

³ Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, July 2021.

- a **Major Transport Passage** is the corridor located either side of a road that is included in the National Land Transport Network (NLTN)⁴, 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.
- 5.2.4. In the event of inconsistencies between the mapping layers and the Eligible Locations definitions, the mapping layers take precedence.

5.3. Eligible expenditure

- 5.3.1. All Proposed Solutions will be eligible to receive a Commonwealth funding contribution of up to 50 per cent (Commonwealth Contribution) of the Total Cost of a Proposed Solution under the Program, which is the combined:
- estimated Asset Capital Costs of building or installing a Funded Solution; 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 sought under the Commonwealth Contribution at 5.3.1 must be clearly identified separately in the application, and will be considered as part of both the assessment against the Assessment Criteria (section 6) and Value with Relevant Money assessment (section 8.2).
- 5.3.3. Grantees will be responsible for any actual Asset Capital Costs and/or Operational Costs that exceed estimated costs.
- 5.3.4. An Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution will be available for specific solution types outlined in Table 1. The Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution is an additional 25 per cent loading based on the Commonwealth Contribution sought by applicants under section 5.3.1. The Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution will be calculated according to the below formula:

*Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution = Commonwealth Contribution sought under section 5.3.1. * 0.25*

- 5.3.5. The Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution **must not be included in the application** and **will not be considered as part of the assessment against the Assessment Criteria and Value with Relevant Money assessment**. The Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution will be reflected in the Grant Agreements for Funded Solutions.

⁴ <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.

Table 1: Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution

Solution Type	Eligible for Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution	Notes
Single MNO Solution	No	
MNIP-led Solution with one or more MNOs	Yes	Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution available to the Lead Applicant only . Contingent on the application for the MNIP-led solution including written evidence of intent from at least one MNO to enter into a commercially binding agreement to use the infrastructure to deliver mobile services as described at section 4.2 for the Operational Period of the Proposed Solution (see 4.1.4).
Multi-MNO Solution	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution available to the Lead Applicant only • contingent on all Proposed Solutions at a proposed co-location site being awarded funding under the Program; and • contingent on the application/s including a signed commercially binding agreement between the co-locating parties, or a commitment to enter into such an agreement prior to a Grant Agreement being executed

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 a participating MNO’s 2023-24 to 2026-27 forward-build plans. In addition, applicants must not have started construction or be part of the participating telecommunications provider’s forward build network or upgrade plans from the period commencing from the date the Grant Opportunity opens until 30 June 2027.
- 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**.
- 5.4.4. 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.

6. The assessment criteria

6.1. Criterion 1: New Improved Handheld Coverage (25 Points)

- 6.1.1. **New Improved Handheld Coverage** refers to the size (in square kilometres) of the mobile coverage footprint area which will receive New Improved Handheld Coverage where there is no **Existing Handheld Coverage** in the applicant's network at the signal levels specified in section 4.2.3.
- 6.1.2. Points will be awarded in two parts based on the amount of New Improved Handheld Coverage delivered by the Proposed Solution within the applicant's network in the Eligible Location.

Part 1

- 6.1.3. Under Part 1, Proposed Solutions will be awarded up to 20 points according to the scoring matrix in Table 2 based on the amount of 4G New Improved Handheld Coverage in square kilometres (km²). The amount of New Improved Handheld Coverage will be assessed against each of the coverage levels specified at 4.2.3 with loadings applied as per Table 4, and then added together to give a total score.

Part 2

- 6.1.4. Under Part 2, Proposed Solutions will be awarded up to an additional 5 points according to scoring matrix in Table 3 based on the amount of 5G New Improved Handheld Coverage in square kilometres (km²).

Table 2: 4G New Improved Handheld Coverage Scoring Matrix (Part 1)

New Improved Handheld coverage range (km ²)	Points	New Improved Handheld coverage range (km ²)	Points
$0.1 \leq x < 2.5$	1	$25.0 \leq x < 30.0$	11
$2.5 \leq x < 5$	2	$30.0 \leq x < 35.0$	12
$5.0 \leq x < 7.5$	3	$35.0 \leq x < 40.0$	13
$7.5 \leq x < 10$	4	$40.0 \leq x < 45.0$	14
$10.0 \leq x < 12.5$	5	$45.0 \leq x < 50.0$	15
$12.5 \leq x < 15$	6	$50.0 \leq x < 55.0$	16
$15.0 \leq x < 17.5$	7	$55.0 \leq x < 60.0$	17
$17.5 \leq x < 20$	8	$60.0 \leq x < 65.0$	18
$20.0 \leq x < 22.5$	9	$65.0 \leq x < 70.0$	19
$22.5 \leq x < 25$	10	$x \geq 70.0$	20

Table 3: 5G New Improved Handheld Coverage Scoring Matrix (Part 2)

New Improved Handheld coverage range (km ²)	Points
$0.1 \leq x < 20.0$	1
$20.0 \leq x < 30.0$	2
$30.0 \leq x < 40.0$	3
$40.0 \leq x < 50.0$	4
$x \geq 50.0$	5

Table 4: Coverage Loading

Coverage Level	Loading	Example — number of points received for 24km ² of coverage based on Table 2
-85dBm	1	10
-95dBm	0.5	5
-105dBm	0.25	2.5
		Total points received: 17.5

- 6.1.5. The department reserves the right to apply a scaling factor and / or offset to each of the New Improved Coverage ranges in Tables 2, 3 and 4, if the existing ranges do not result in an adequate scoring differential. For example, if the New Improved Coverage outcomes only ranged up to 35 km² with a significant clumping, the department may apply a factor (i.e. ½) to increase the scoring range and better differentiate the scoring of applications.
- 6.1.6. For Multi-MNO Proposed Solutions, the points received for Part 1 and Part 2 will be assessed separately for each MNO’s mobile coverage footprint area and then added together into a single score for the respective solution, capped to 25 points.

6.2. Criterion 2: Premises within New Improved Handheld Coverage Area (15 Points)

- 6.2.1. Proposed Solutions will be awarded up to 15 points based on the number of premises within the Proposed Solution’s New Improved Handheld Coverage area at a level with a RSRP of **-85dBm** for 4G and 5G services, at 90 per cent confidence levels for the cell area. Eligible Locations under the Program (see section 5.2) will be divided into two categories with separate scoring matrices, in recognition of the different demographics and settlement patterns between the locations. Category A locations will be assessed against the scoring matrix in Table 5, and Category B locations will be assessed against the scoring matrix in Table 6.
- **Category A:** Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads and Canberra/Queanbeyan.
 - **Category B:** Sunshine Coast, Central Coast, Geelong, Cairns, Hobart, Townsville, Newcastle, Ballarat, Bendigo, Toowoomba, Darwin and Wollongong.

Table 5: Premises Scoring Matrix (Category A)

Premises range	Points	Premises range	Points
1 – 1000	1	8,001 – 9,000	11.5
1,001 – 2,000	2	9,001 – 10,000	12
2,001 – 3,000	4	10,001 – 12,000	12.5
3,001 – 4,000	6	12,001 – 14,000	13
4,001 – 5,000	8	14,001 – 16,000	13.5
5,001 – 6,000	10	16,001 – 18,000	14
6,001 – 7,000	10.5	18,001 – 20,000	14.5
7,001 – 8,000	11	> 20,000	15

Table 6: Premises Scoring Matrix (Category B)

Premises range	Points	Premises range	Points	Premises range	Points
1 – 100	1	751 – 1,000	6	2,001 – 2,500	11
101 – 200	2	1,001 – 1,250	7	2,501 – 3,000	12
201 – 300	3	1,251 – 1,500	8	3,001 – 4,000	13
301 – 500	4	1,501 – 1,750	9	4,001 – 5,000	14
501 – 750	5	1,751 – 2,000	10	> 5,000	15

- 6.2.2. The department reserves the right to apply a scaling factor and / or offset both Premises scoring matrix in Tables 5 and 6, if the existing ranges do not result in an adequate scoring differential. For example, if the majority of premises counts all exceed 5,000 for Category B, the department may apply a factor (i.e. ½) to increase the scoring range and better differentiate the scoring of applications. When applying a scaling factor or offset, the department will seek to keep relative weighting between Table 5 and 6 consistent, as appropriate.
- 6.2.3. For Multi-MNO Proposed Solutions, the points for Premises within the New Improved Handheld Coverage area will be assessed separately for each MNO’s mobile coverage footprint area and then added together into a single score for the respective solution, capped to 15 points. Premises receiving both 4G and 5G New Improved Handheld Coverage will only be counted once.

6.3. Criterion 3: Cost to the Commonwealth (20 Points)

- 6.3.1. **Cost to the Commonwealth** (GST exclusive) refers to the GST exclusive Commonwealth portion of the estimated Total Cost for the Proposed Solution (see section 5.3.1), including capitalised Operational Costs (Commonwealth Contribution). The assessment **will not** include the Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution.
- 6.3.2. Up to 20 points will be awarded to Proposed Solutions using the scoring matrix in Table 7.

Table 7: Cost to the Commonwealth Scoring Matrix

Cost to the Commonwealth (GST exc) (\$000s)	Points	Cost to the Commonwealth (GST exc) (\$000s)	Points
0 – \$99	20	\$550 – \$599	10
\$100 – \$149	19	\$600 – \$649	9
\$150 – \$199	18	\$650 – \$699	8
\$200 – \$249	17	\$700 – \$749	7
\$250 – \$299	16	\$750 – \$799	6
\$300 – \$349	15	\$800 – \$849	5
\$350 – \$399	14	\$850 – \$899	4
\$400 – \$449	13	\$900 – \$949	3
\$450 – \$499	12	\$950 – \$1,000	2
\$500 – \$549	11	> \$1,000	1

6.4. Criterion 4: Material Coverage Improvement (20 Points)

- 6.4.1. **Material Coverage Improvement** refers to an improvement to the quality of service expected to be received in an Eligible Location, excluding the amount of New Improved Handheld Coverage as outlined at section 6.1.
- 6.4.2. For Multi-MNO Proposed Solutions, the points for Material Coverage Improvement will be assessed separately for each MNO and then added together into a single score for the respective solution, capped to 20 points.

- 6.4.3. Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Proposed Solution will address a quality of service issue for the Eligible Location, using the following scoring matrix in Table 8.

Table 8: Material Coverage Improvement Scoring Matrix

Rating	Score	Definition
Very Good	17–20	The Proposed Solution fully addresses the quality of service issue and provides a very significant improvement to service quality, which may anticipate future growth in demand. Evidence fully supports the applicant’s claims to a very high degree.
Good	13–16	The Proposed Solution mostly addresses the quality of service issue and provides a significant improvement to service quality, but which may only partially anticipate future growth in demand. Evidence mostly supports the applicant’s claims to a high degree.
Satisfactory	9–12	The Proposed Solution generally addresses the quality of service issue and provides some improvement to service quality, but which does not anticipate future growth in demand. Evidence generally supports the applicant’s claims to a satisfactory degree.
Poor	5–8	The Proposed Solution partially addresses the quality of service issue and provides limited improvement to service quality. Evidence is limited and does not support the applicant’s claims to a satisfactory degree.
Not Addressed or Very Poor	0–4	The Proposed Solution does not address the quality of service issue and provides no or very limited improvement to service quality. Little or no evidence is provided to support the applicant’s claims.

- 6.4.4. Applicants should include a detailed explanation and relevant evidence of a Material Coverage Improvement to be awarded points against this criterion. This evidence could include, but is not limited to:

- Description of the key quality of service issue/s for the participating MNOs in the Eligible Location to be addressed by the Proposed Solution, such as congestion, coverage black spots, network dominance etc;
- Graphs or other data demonstrating how an upgrade to backhaul capacity will improve peak congestion for users in an Eligible Location;
- Mapping or other data demonstrating how a new sector will address a localised coverage black spot or provide additional capacity to an Eligible Location;
- Diagrams or other data demonstrating how a new base station will address a localised network dominance issue in an Eligible Location;
- Evidence of support from a relevant third party, such as a local emergency management organisation, including how the solution would directly benefit the organisation; and
- Evidence that the Eligible Location to receive the Material Coverage Improvement is at risk of natural disasters, including bushfires, and the severity of that risk.

- 6.4.5. Where a written explanation is provided this should be limited to no more than 500 words, where possible.

6.5. Criterion 5: Multi-MNO Solutions –Additional MNO service offerings (20 Points)

- 6.5.1. A Proposed Solution will be awarded points where it will offer services, that meet the requirements of section 4.2 from more than one MNO at the time of application, or will offer services from another MNO’s Proposed Solution under

Round 2 of the Program. This is in recognition of the benefits of **Multi-MNO solutions**.

- A Proposed Solution that will deliver services from three MNOs at the time of application will be awarded 20 points.
- A Proposed Solution that will deliver services from two MNOs at the time of application will be awarded 15 points.
- A Proposed Solution that will deliver services from another applicant’s Proposed Solution will be awarded 10 points.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Guidelines.

All application documents may be found on [GrantConnect](#). Any alterations and addenda⁵ will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on the GrantConnect website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

To apply you must:

- complete the Grant Opportunity application form;
- provide all information requested;
- demonstrate that you meet all Eligibility Criteria;
- provide responses to the Assessment Criteria;
- include all necessary attachments; and
- submit your application/s before the due date.

Table 9: Expected timing for this Grant Opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Guidelines released and applications open	18 December 2023
Applicant registration and pre-application documentation for applicants intending to submit proposals under the Program	17:00 AEDT, 15 January 2024 (4 weeks after opening)
Submit initial proposal for Proposed Solutions	17:00 AEDT, 29 January 2024 (6 weeks after opening)
Applications close	17:00 AEDT, 11 March 2024 (12 weeks after opening)
Announcement of Successful Applications	To be advised
Commencement date of Grant Activity	On Execution of Grant Agreement
End date of Grant Activity	As specified in the respective Grant Agreement
End date of Operational Period	As defined at section 3.5.2 of these Guidelines and as specified in the respective Grant Agreement

7.1. Applicant registration

- 7.1.1. Potential applicants must register their interest with the department and provide a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement prior to being granted access to the Program documentation.

⁵ Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents; changes to closing times for applications; Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents; and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents.

7.2. Pre-application lodgement

- 7.2.1. Potential applicants who intend to make Proposed Solutions must register their interest first with the department and provide a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement prior to being granted access to the confidential Program Documentation.
- 7.2.2. 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 4G and 5G handheld coverage information, including the coverage from funded base stations to be delivered under Round 1 of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program, the Mobile Black Spot Program and the Regional Connectivity Program and any base station funded under a state or territory program, regardless of the stage of construction.
- 7.2.3. Existing Handheld Coverage information required at section 7.2.2 must be submitted to the department in accordance with the timing set out in Table 9 (Expected Timing). The department may, at its absolute discretion, accept mobile coverage information submitted by MNOs after this date.
- 7.2.4. The Existing Handheld Coverage information required in accordance with section 7.2.2 must be supplied as separate layers as follows:
 - Handheld Coverage Maps: being layers modelled to the Handheld Coverage levels as set out in section 4.2.3; and
 - Existing Public Coverage Maps: being layers representing the predictive handheld coverage modelling standards which underpin the publicly available coverage maps on the MNO's website.
- 7.2.5. For avoidance of doubt, the Existing Public Coverage Maps are requested for information purposes only. Assessment will only consider the New Improved Handheld Coverage Maps (i.e. a "like-for-like" comparison).
- 7.2.6. Pre-application information can be submitted by any of the methods outlined at section 7.4.

7.3. Submit initial proposals for Proposed Solutions

- 7.3.1. Registered applicants must lodge initial proposals for locations where they are interested in applying for funding under the Program to the department by the closing date and time in Table 9 (Expected Timing). The department may, at its absolute discretion, accept initial proposals submitted by MNOs and MNIPs after this date.
- 7.3.2. The registered applicants will provide this information using the "Initial Proposals" template provided in the **Application Pack**.
- 7.3.3. 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:
 - a unique identifier;
 - the location;
 - type of base stations being considered (small cell / macro); and
 - the proponent's contact details.

- 7.3.4. The department will also distribute a contact list of all pre-registered applicants to facilitate discussions regardless of whether a pre-registered applicant has identified potential partnering locations.
- 7.3.5. 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. The department strongly encourages applicants to consult with third parties during this period including, but not limited to: state, territory and local governments, emergency management organisations and local communities.
- 7.3.6. The list of locations will be treated as **Confidential Information** by the registered applicants in accordance with section 13.5 and the Non-Disclosure Agreement signed by each applicant.
- 7.3.7. Initial proposal information can be submitted by any of the methods outlined at section 7.4.

7.4. Completing and lodging an application

- 7.4.1. Applications for funding must be lodged using the Application Pack provided following registration.
- 7.4.2. 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. Your application must provide, specifying in each case:
 - the proposed site location (address and coordinates);
 - 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/s;
 - the amount of Commonwealth co-contribution sought (GST inclusive) under the Program. This amount should be consistent with the up to amount specified in section 5.3.1. (Commonwealth Contribution). **It must not include the Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution** (see sections 5.3.4, 5.3.5 and Table 1 for eligibility);
 - the amount (if any) of co-contributions (GST inclusive) to be received from third parties including but not limited to state, territory or local governments, local communities, or any combination of these, and any specific requirements or conditions tied to the co-contributions;
 - where any co-contributions are being received, accompanying evidence from all third parties. For example, a letter of support from a suitably senior official from the relevant third party, which outlines the amount of co-contributions to be received and any conditions attached to the co-contributions. The department may ask for additional evidence of co-contributions if it considers the evidence you provide is unsatisfactory;
 - 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 New Improved Handheld Coverage specified at section 4.2.3, and mapping data modelled to the level of coverage the applicant will publicly claim;
 - written support from any consortia members or other co-contributors (see section 3.3, 3.4 and 7.6);
 - 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, roaming, co-location); and
 - any additional connectivity benefits offered by the Proposed Solution to the target area including services offering from a **Non-National Mobile Network Operator** (if relevant).
- 7.4.3. In addition, applicants must warrant that none of the Proposed Solutions for which Grant Opportunity funds are being sought were at any time part of any of the participating MNOs' forward-build network expansion or upgrade plans from the period commencing from the Grant Opportunity until 30 June 2027 (see section 5.4.1).
- 7.4.4. You must agree that the predictive coverage mapping data supplied in the application can be used by the department to prepare promotional material for the Program or for policy development and advice as needed.
- 7.4.5. 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.
- 7.4.6. Where an applicant has previously agreed a grant agreement with the Commonwealth under Round 1 of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program or another similar grant program that is administered by the department (for example, the Mobile Black Spot Program) (a **Previous Grant Agreement**) the applicant may request the Commonwealth consider using the Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for the Grant Agreement under this Program. When making a request, the applicant must provide reasons addressing why utilising a Previous Grant Agreement would be appropriate. Applicants must still indicate their ability to comply with the draft Grant Agreement (see section 7.4.5.). Requests of this nature must be received no later than two weeks before close of applications.
- 7.4.7. The Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth is under no obligation to agree to any request made by an applicant to utilise a Previous Grant Agreement. Any decision by the Commonwealth will be final.
- 7.4.8. 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 marked-up version of the Previous Grant Agreement reflecting its proposed drafting, its position and its reasons for requesting the change.
- 7.4.9. Details for contacting the department to seek clarification or assistance with any aspects of completing an application are at section 7.10.

- 7.4.10. 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 their interest for the Program (see section 7.1).
- Note: 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.
- 7.4.11. 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 ESRI Shape; MapInfo TAB or MID/MIF; GML; or KML format.
- 7.4.12. 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.
- 7.4.13. Where physical electronic media is to be provided, the media must be PC formatted. Applicants should include an index of all electronic documents on the physical electronic media. Applications provided in hard copy and physical electronic formats should be delivered via registered post or by hand prior to the closing date. Applications via post are to be addressed and delivered to:
- Director, Mobile Coverage – Regional Communities
Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601
- 7.4.14. The department will acknowledge receipt of all applications by email to the applicant’s nominated contact officer.
- 7.4.15. You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offense under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.
- 7.4.16. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

7.5. Costing Arrangements for MNIP-led applications

- 7.5.1. An MNIP should include all relevant capital and operational costs in its application for both itself and the MNOs it is partnering with for a Proposed Solution.
- 7.5.2. Any costs incurred by a participating MNO arising from its commercial agreement with an MNIP for a Proposed Solution (e.g. site access fees, and other management and operational fees) are expected to be included in the MNOs’ costs.
- 7.5.3. The MNIP does not need to subtract any shared costs from its costings, except where a cost element has been passed on to (or is being recovered from) the

participating MNOs through the commercial agreement, and are reflected in the MNOs' costs.

- 7.5.4. An MNIP cannot claim any costs that will be covered by MNO fees under their commercial agreement. For example, an MNIP cannot claim any portion of the land rental that is included in the MNO's costs e.g. if the land rental for mobile base station elements totals \$10,000 per annum, and the MNO's commercial agreement only covers \$5,000 of this cost, then the MNIP can only include the remaining \$5,000 in its operational costs.
- 7.5.5. An MNIP may provide any necessary additional information to explain the cost breakdown between the participants in individual Proposed Solutions.
- 7.5.6. In situations where a participating MNO has specific commercially sensitive costing information, and it does not want to share this information with the MNIP, the MNO can, by prior agreement of the Commonwealth, provide the information directly to the Commonwealth before the application period closes.
- 7.5.7. The MNO must seek the Commonwealth's agreement to the arrangement outlined at section 7.5.6 at least two days prior to the closing of the application period.
- 7.5.8. If this approach is taken, the MNIP must still include the aggregate (total) costing information for each participating MNO against each individual Proposed Solution.
- 7.5.9. Consistent with section 4.1.5, all payments will be made to the Lead Applicant only (in this case the MNIP). The MNIP and participating MNOs must negotiate their own separate payment arrangements between themselves through their commercial agreement.
- 7.5.10. Where specific cost breakdown information is required during the rollout period such as to support payment claims or the final true up, this information can be provided separately by the MNIP and participating MNOs to the Commonwealth.
- 7.5.11. Applicants must identify in their applications the specific type of information and the situations where this would occur.

7.6. Joint (consortia) applications

- 7.6.1. We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver a Proposed Solution. In these circumstances, you must appoint a Lead Applicant. Only the Lead Applicant can submit the application form, but the Lead Applicant will not necessarily be the entity entering into any agreement with the Commonwealth (see section 4.1.5).
- 7.6.2. The Lead Applicant must identify all other members of the group (partner organisations) and their role in the Proposed Solution and include, in addition to the requirements at section 7.4.2, a letter of support from each of the partner organisations. Each letter of support should include:
 - details of the partner organisation;
 - an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the Lead Applicant, including financial co-contributors and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the Proposed Solution;
 - an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group;

- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any); and
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

7.6.3. You must have a formal arrangement in place with all partner organisations prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement.

7.7. Closing date for funding applications

7.7.1. The closing date for submitting an application for funding under the Program is as at Table 9 (Expected Timing).

7.8. Late applications

7.8.1. You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. The department reserves the right to, in exceptional circumstances, accept a late application to the assessment process at its discretion. Without limiting the department's discretion, exceptional circumstances may include natural disasters or unforeseen technical issues with application forms or lodgement systems. Any decision by the department on whether or not to accept a late application to the assessment process shall be final.

7.8.2. If you believe there are circumstances which will affect the timely submission of your application, you must contact the department before the application closing date to negotiate an alternative submission due date. 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.

7.9. Further information about the application

7.9.1. 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 technical expert advice to verify claims made.

7.10. Questions during the application process

7.10.1. 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. The department's written decision on the matter is final.

7.10.2. We will acknowledge and address emailed questions as soon as practicable. Answers to questions will be posted on GrantConnect.

7.11. Errors identified in applications

7.11.1. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact the department immediately at PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au.

7.11.2. 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 at Table 9 (Expected Timing).

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

- 8.1.1. The assessment process for the Program will be as follows:
- initial assessment against Eligibility Criteria;
 - merit based assessment of each Proposed Solution against the Assessment Criteria;
 - how each Proposed Solution compares to other Proposed Solutions included in the application and other applications;
 - value with relevant money assessment and consideration of whether the Proposed Solution supports a Government priority as outlined in section 8.2.
- 8.1.2. Following the closing date for applications, the department will undertake an initial eligibility 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 included at section 4 of these Guidelines. We will consider eligible applications through a targeted competitive grant process against the Assessment Criteria included at section 6 of these Guidelines.
- 8.1.3. We may seek advice regarding your Proposed Solution from state or territory government agencies, other Australian Government agencies, independent technical experts and other external parties. This advice may be taken into consideration when assessing the Proposed Solution.
- 8.1.4. Where the level of information provided in an application is not sufficient for the assessors to make a recommendation they may, but are not obliged to, seek more information from the applicant so long as it does not change the substance of the application. If the assessment process identifies unintentional errors in your application, we may contact you to correct or clarify the errors, but you cannot make any material alteration or addition. It is therefore recommended that you thoroughly address the criteria in your application.
- 8.1.5. An assessment committee (see section 8.3) may seek additional information about your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.
- 8.1.6. Based on the recommendations of the Assessment Committee, the department will provide advice to the Decision Maker on recommended eligible Proposed Solutions and details of the assessment of each eligible Proposed Solution.
- 8.1.7. Recommendations to the Decision Maker will be ranked according to the outcomes of the assessment, from highest to lowest ranked, and annotated to identify when available funding has been exhausted.

8.2. Value with Relevant Money

- 8.2.1. Following assessment against the Eligibility and Assessment Criteria, an assessment will also be undertaken to consider which of the Proposed Solutions represent the best Value with Relevant Money to the Commonwealth and

whether they support a Government priority. This is to ensure the grant will add value by achieving Program benefits that would not occur without the grant. This assessment will have regard to the overall Program and Grant Opportunity objectives.

- 8.2.2. A Value with Relevant Money assessment for each Proposed Solution will be undertaken. Recommendations for funding will use the processes, requirements and Assessment Criteria set out in these Guidelines.
- 8.2.3. Based on the overarching Value with Relevant 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 eligible Solutions. For example:
- a lower ranked solution that has been designed to target a localised coverage issue affecting a community, may offer better Value with Relevant Money compared to higher ranked solution that predominantly achieves a higher score by providing improved coverage outcomes to distant hill tops in unpopulated areas; or
 - a Proposed Solution may be significantly higher risk to deliver compared to a slightly lower ranked solution.
- 8.2.4. Based on the Value with Relevant 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 based on the Value with Relevant Money Assessment.
- 8.2.5. 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 (Commonwealth Contribution), should it be considered of higher Value with Relevant Money.
- 8.2.6. Factors that may be considered in the Value with Relevant Money assessment include, but are not limited to the:
- degree to which mobile services are improved at the location; level of support from the local community and/or local council;
 - level of support from local emergency management organisations;
 - any relevant risk issues, including the degree to which a location is at risk from natural disasters, including bushfires, based on the relevant state, territory and/or local government frameworks;
 - length of major rail and/or road transport routes, not limited to those included in the Program as Eligible Locations, that will receive New Improved Handheld Coverage, or coverage that is new for a participating MNO but overlaps with another MNO's network, from the Proposed Solution;
 - extent to which the Proposed Solution would contribute to the Program objectives, including addressing any identified local priority or Government priority;
 - the degree to which competition is provided **or enabled** at a single solution, for example from at least two MNOs (i.e. delivers **Multi-MNO outcomes**) **or an active sharing solution led by an MNIP with one or more MNOs**;
 - extent to which the Proposed Solution leverages additional partnerships and in-kind contributions;

- cost to the Commonwealth of the Proposed Solution (Commonwealth contribution only);
 - nature of the costs included in the estimated Asset Capital Cost and Operational Costs for the Proposed Solution;
 - the applicant’s track record of delivering similar grants projects; and
 - any additional connectivity benefits offered by the Proposed Solution to the target area including services offering from a Non-National Mobile Network Operator.
- 8.2.7. Where possible, the assessment committee may recommend funding at least one Proposed Solution at each of the Eligible Locations, provided the particular solution achieves Value with Relevant Money. This is intended to achieve the policy objectives of the program across the range of eligible locations, rather than see outcomes delivered only to the most commercially viable or populous locations.
- 8.2.8. Any other Value with Relevant Money considerations taken into account by the assessment committee will be documented and form part of the advice to the Decision Maker.

8.3. Who will assess applications?

- 8.3.1. The department will establish an assessment committee, comprising appropriately skilled officials from the department. Committee members may also be drawn from other Commonwealth agencies and relevant entities such as the National Emergency Management Agency.
- 8.3.2. The assessment committee will assess each application on its own merits and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which Proposed Solutions should be awarded a grant (if any).
- 8.3.3. We may ask external advisors (such as technical experts and probity advisors) to inform the assessment process. Any third party or advisor who is not a Commonwealth Official will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the [CGRGs](#), and comply with the conflict of interest requirements set out at section 13.3.

8.4. Who will approve grants?

- 8.4.1. The Decision Maker for the Program is the Minister for Communications.
- 8.4.2. The Decision Maker decides which grants to approve, taking into account the recommendations of the assessment committee and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the Grant Opportunity.
- 8.4.3. The Minister’s decision is final in all matters, including the:
- approval of recommendations;
 - amount of grant funding to be awarded; and
 - terms and conditions of grant funding.
- 8.4.4. There is no appeal mechanism for decision to approve or not approve a grant. An applicant who is dissatisfied with the outcome may contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman as set out in section 13.2.

9. Notification of application outcomes

9.1. Application outcomes

- 9.1.1. We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the Grant.

9.2. Feedback on your application

- 9.2.1. If you are unsuccessful in obtaining a grant, you may ask for feedback within 28 days of being advised of the outcome. We will provide written feedback within one month of your request.
- 9.2.2. If there are not enough suitable applications to expend the \$20 million (GST exclusive) allocated to the Program, any unallocated funding may be allocated to Round 3 of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

- 10.1.1. Each Grantee will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth. Each Grant Agreement will set out the Grantee's obligations in respect of the rollout and service terms for each Funded Solution.
- 10.1.2. In the Grant Agreement, the applicant will be required to commit to operate its Funded Solution infrastructure and deliver Funded Solution benefits over the Operational Period. Applicants may be required to report on the ongoing benefits of the Funded Solution.
- 10.1.3. A sample Grant Agreement for Funded Solutions will be available shortly after the opening of the Round.
- 10.1.4. Applicants requesting any changes to the sample Grant Agreement should provide full details of the proposed changes in their application, for consideration by the department (see section 7.4).
- 10.1.5. Applicants requesting to use a Previous Grant Agreement should provide reasons in their application for consideration by the department (see section 7.4).
- 10.1.6. The Commonwealth may, at its sole and absolute discretion, agree to use the Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for the Grant Agreement.
- 10.1.7. 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 may be drawn from the sample Grant Agreement provided in the Application Pack.
- 10.1.8. The decision to use an updated Previous Grant Agreement as the basis for the Round 2 Grant Agreement is at the sole and absolute discretion of the Commonwealth.
- Note: No contractual obligations arise for either party until a Grant Agreement satisfactory to the Commonwealth is negotiated and signed by the Commonwealth.

- 10.1.9. We must execute a Grant Agreement with the applicant before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of the applicant's expenditure until a Grant Agreement is executed. Applicants should not start any activities relating to a Funded Solution until a Grant Agreement is executed. The Commonwealth expects Grant Agreement terms to be reached with a successful Grantee within 60 Business days of the proposed Grantee being advised in writing that the Commonwealth is prepared to financially support the Proposed Solution/s. If terms have not been agreed within 60 Business days, and without limiting any other rights or discretions, the Commonwealth reserves the right not to proceed with a Grant Agreement for the Proposed Solution and to withdraw any offer of funding.

10.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

- 10.2.1. Whilst applicants are required to be compliant with all laws and regulations, they may be requested to demonstrate compliance with relevant legislation, policies or industry standards. For example, applicants may be requested to demonstrate compliance with health, safety or security related legislation, policies or industry standards that are in any way applicable to a Funded Solution.

10.2.2. Australian Industry Participation (AIP) Plan

- 10.2.3. Grant applicants should note that funding of \$20 million or more, subject to advice from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, the Australian Industry Participant National Framework principles, including an AIP plan requirement, may apply to the Grant Agreement(s). More information on AIP plan requirements can be found at: <https://industry.gov.au/aip>

10.2.4. WHS Accreditation Scheme

- 10.2.5. Building work undertaken as part of the Funded Solution/s under this agreement may be covered by the Work Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme (WHS Accreditation Scheme). The WHS Accreditation Scheme is established under the Federal Safety Commissioner Act 2022 and specified in the Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) (Accreditation Scheme) Rules 2019. The WHS applies to building work that is indirectly funded by the Commonwealth or a corporate **Commonwealth entity** if it is carried out under a contract with a value of \$4 million or more (GST inclusive) and the contribution made to the funding of the project that includes the building work by the Commonwealth or Commonwealth Corporate entity is at least:

- \$6,000,000 (GST inclusive) and represents at least 50% of the total funding; or
- \$10,000,000 (GST inclusive).

- 10.2.6. A successful applicant who is the builder must comply with all conditions of Scheme accreditation and successful applicants who will be engaging builders to undertake the building work must require builders to comply with all conditions of Scheme accreditation.

10.2.7. Keeping us informed

- 10.2.8. Applicants should let us know if anything is likely to effect the Funded Solution or organisation. We need to know of any key changes to the applicant's organisation or its business activities which may affect its ability to complete the

Funded Solution, carry on business and pay debts due. Applicants must also inform us of any changes to:

- name;
- addresses;
- nominated contact details; and
- bank account details;

10.2.9. If applicants become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the Grant Agreement, they must contact us immediately. Applicants must notify us of events and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

10.3. How we pay the grant

10.3.1. The Grant Agreement will state:

- the maximum grant amount to be paid;
- the proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the Grant;
- any financial contributions provided by you or a third party;
- any in-kind contributions provided by you or a third party; and
- any other requirements.

10.3.2. We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If applicants incur extra costs, they must meet them themselves. We may make an initial payment on execution of the Grant Agreement. We will make subsequent payments as applicants achieve key milestones (e.g. achieving necessary approvals to commence construction, asset completion demonstrated by a satisfactory report) based on the applicant's eligible expenditure. These payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the Funded Solution.

10.4. Grant payments and GST

10.4.1. Payments will be made as set out in the Grant Agreement. If the applicant is registered for GST, where applicable, the department will add GST to the grant payment.

10.4.2. 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.

10.5. Amendment to these Guidelines

10.5.1. The Government reserves the right to terminate or vary the Program, (including via variation of these Guidelines) as its discretion, at any time, for any reason, including without limitation, in light of changes to Government policy. Any alterations or addenda to the Program will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified on any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

10.5.2. If the Government determines that these Guidelines require amendment prior to the date for which funding applicants 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.

- 10.5.3. 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 set out details of the changes, and all existing applicants will be notified of arrangements impacting existing applications.
- 10.5.4. 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 by the Commonwealth and the Grantee.

11. Announcement of grants

- 11.1.1. If successful, applicants' grants will be listed on the GrantConnect website 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. Keeping us informed

- 12.1.1. Grantees must submit reports in accordance with the Grant Agreement. We will expect Grantees to report on such matters as:
- progress against agreed activities and outcomes;
 - contributions of participants directly related to the Funded Solution including scheduled co-contributions (if any); and
 - expenditure of the grant.
- 12.1.2. The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the Funded Solution size, complexity and grant amount. We will monitor progress by assessing reports Grantees submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments. We may also inspect the records applicants are required to keep under the Grant Agreement.

12.2. Reporting

- 12.2.1. Grantees must submit reports in accordance with the Grant Agreement. We will expect Grantees to report on such matters as:
- progress against agreed activity and outcomes;
 - contributions of participants directly related to the Funded Solution including scheduled co-contributions (if any); and
 - expenditure of the grant.
- 12.2.2. The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the Funded Solution size, complexity and grant amount.
- 12.2.3. We will monitor progress by assessing reports applicants submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments. We may also inspect the records applicants are required to keep under the Grant Agreement.

12.3. Asset completion report

- 12.3.1. For each completed Asset, Grantees must submit an asset completion report as specified in the Grant Agreement. Assets will be defined in each Grantee's Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth.

12.4. Financial declaration or audited financial acquittal reports

- 12.4.1. We will ask Grantees to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the Grant Agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money. We may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.5. Independent audit report

- 12.5.1. The department may request an independently audited financial report for Funded Solutions at the Grantee's expense. For example, where claimed costs at a number of sites significantly diverge from past experience, without a reasonable explanation, or there is concern that costs have been claimed for ineligible activities (see section 5.4).
- 12.5.2. The financial audit report will verify that Grantees spent the grant in accordance with the Grant Agreement. We will assess the report and may re-examine applicants' claims or conduct site visits if necessary.

12.6. Grant agreement variations

- 12.6.1. We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your Grant Agreement. Grantees can request a variation by providing written notice to the department setting out the reasons for the variation and proposing the steps that could be taken to better achieve the purpose or address the risks of the Funded Solutions.
- 12.6.2. You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the Grant Agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.7. Compliance visits

- 12.7.1. The department (including entities acting on our behalf) may visit Grantees during the development and construction of the Funded Solution, or at the completion of the Funded Solution to review compliance with the Grant Agreement.
- 12.7.2. We may also inspect the records Grantees are required to keep under the Grant Agreement. For large or complex Funded Solutions, we may visit Grantees after they finish the Funded Solution.
- 12.7.3. We will provide Grantees with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.8. Evaluation

- 12.8.1. We will evaluate the Grant Opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview Grantees, or ask for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the Program was in achieving its outcomes.

- 12.8.2. Grantees may be required to participate in Program reviews and evaluations. We may contact Grantees up to one year after the Asset Completion Dates for each Funded Solution for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.9. Acknowledgement

- 12.9.1. The Program logo should be used on all materials related to grants under the Program. Whenever the logo is used, the publication must also acknowledge the Commonwealth as follows:

“Peri-Urban Mobile Program – An Australian Government initiative”.

If applicants make a public statement about a Funded Solution under the Program, we require them to acknowledge the Grant by using the following wording:

“This project received funding from the Australian Government.”

13. Probity

13.1. Grant opportunity probity

- 13.1.1. The Government will make sure that the Grant Opportunity process is fair, conducted according to these Guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct, and is consistent with the [CGRGs](#).
- 13.1.2. External advisors (such as technical experts and probity advisors) may also be asked to inform the assessment and evaluation process. All external advisors must comply with the [CGRGs](#).

13.2. Enquiries and feedback

- 13.2.1. The department’s [Client Service Charter](#)<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/about/charter.aspx> applies to complaints about this Grant Opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.
- 13.2.2. Any questions you have about grant decisions for this Grant Opportunity should be sent to PUMP@infrastructure.gov.au.
- 13.2.3. If an applicant does not agree with the way the department has handled its complaint, they 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

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.3. Conflicts of interest

- 13.3.1. Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the Grant Opportunity or Program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest

if department staff, any member of a committee, advisor, and/or the applicant or any of applicant's personnel has a:

- professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or an external advisor;
- relationship with or interest in, an organisation, that 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 your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.
- 13.3.3. If an applicant later identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, they 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). Committee members, other officials including the Decision Maker, and any third parties involved in the assessment process as set out in section 8.3 must also declare any conflicts of interest. Any contractual arrangements between the department and third parties involved in the assessment process will have appropriate conflict of interest provisions.

13.4. Privacy

- 13.4.1. We treat personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cth) (the Privacy Act) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (the APPs). This includes letting applicants know:
- what personal information we collect;
 - why we collect your personal information; and
 - who we give your information to.
- 13.4.2. Applicants' personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies under the *Privacy Act 1988*. The Australian Government may use and disclose information about grant applicants under this Grant Opportunity. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.
- 13.4.3. We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research, or service delivery, according to Australian laws. As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the eligible Grant Activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the Grant Activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything which if done by the department would breach an [Australian Privacy Principle](#) as defined in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

- 13.4.4. For further information about our privacy obligations (including in relation how to access or correct personal information or make a complaint) and our contact details for privacy matters, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

13.5. Confidential Information

- 13.5.1. 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).
- 13.5.2. 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 advisers 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.
- 13.5.3. 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).
- 13.5.4. 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.
- 13.5.5. 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.

13.6. Intellectual Property rights

- 13.6.1. 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.

- 13.6.2. 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.

13.7. Freedom of Information

- 13.7.1. 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**).

- 13.7.2. 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 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.

- 13.7.3. All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the department's Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing at:

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: foi@infrastructure.gov.au.

14. Consultation

- 14.1.1. These Guidelines are informed by the submissions received as part of consultation on the draft Guidelines.

15. Glossary

Glossary

Term	Definition
4G	Fourth generation mobile telecommunications service.
5G	Fifth generation mobile telecommunications service.
Additional Commonwealth Funding Contribution	A 25 per cent loading calculated based on the Commonwealth Contribution specified at section 5.3.1, for eligible solution types specified in Table 1.
AEDT	Australian Eastern Daylight Time.
Application Pack	Has the meaning given in section 7.4

Term	Definition
Asset Capital Costs (CAPEX)	The costs to purchase and build physical assets under the Program.
Assessment Criteria	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.
Assessment Tool	The Excel spreadsheet that Eligible Applicants must use to make an application. Instructions on how to complete the Assessment Tool are in the Application Pack and in the spreadsheet itself. Has the meaning given in section 7.4.2.
Australian Business Number (ABN)	A unique 11 digit number that identifies a business to the government and community.
Backhaul	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.
Cluster Solution	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.
Co-locating MNO	Has the meaning given in section 4.2 under Multi-MNO solutions – Active Sharing, Co-location and co-build.
Commonwealth Contribution	The financial contribution to be made by the Commonwealth for all Proposed Solutions as set out in 5.3.1
Commonwealth entity	A Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	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.
Confidential Information	Applicant Confidential Information and Commonwealth Confidential Information as defined in section 13.5.
Consumer Level Products or Equipment	Non-infrastructure telecommunication products purchased for the consumption by a limited number of users.
Decision Maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant, as set out in section 8.4.
Department	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
Eligibility Criteria	The mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment Criteria may apply in addition to Eligibility Criteria. These are set out at section 4.1 of these Guidelines.
Eligible Location	Has the meaning given in section 5.2.

Term	Definition
Existing Handheld Coverage	Coverage able to be obtained with a handheld mobile device within the applicant's mobile network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that is currently available; that will be provided by any base station that will be delivered by the applicant under a round of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program, Mobile Black Spot Program or other Commonwealth grant program; or that will be provided by any applicant base station funded under a state or territory program.
FOI	Freedom of Information
Funded Solution	Solution selected for funding under the Program.
Grant	For the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> under which relevant money⁶ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁷ is to be paid to a Grantee other than the Commonwealth; and which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the Grantee achieve its objectives.
Grant Activity/Activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the Grantee is required to undertake.
Grant Agreement	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.
GrantConnect	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.
GST	Goods and Service Tax
Guidelines	These Guidelines for Round 2 of the Peri-Urban Mobile Program.

⁶ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁷ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
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.
Material Coverage Improvement	The improvement to the quality of service that can be obtained with a handheld mobile device in areas that already receive Existing Handheld Coverage in the applicant's network.
MNIP	Mobile Network Infrastructure Provider (as described in section 4.1.3).
MNO	Mobile Network Operator (as described in section 4.1.2).
Natural Disaster	A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts (National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework). As predicated by a Natural Hazard .
Natural Hazard	A natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. For example: geological hazards, such as (but not limited to) landslides and earthquakes; and extreme weather, and climate-driven hazards, such as (but not limited to) east coast lows, floods, bushfires and cyclones.
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 in the applicant's network at the signal levels specified in section 4.2.3.
Operational Period	The length of time that an asset is required to provide services for which it was funded under the Program, specified in section 3.5.2.
Previous Grant Agreement	Has the meaning given in section 7.4.6.
Program	The Peri-Urban Mobile Program Round 2.
Proposed Solution	Infrastructure for which an applicant has sought funding under the Program.
Quality of Service	In mobile telecommunications, the description or measurement of the overall performance of a service, particularly the performance seen by the users of the network.
Reference Signal Received Power (RSRP)	The received signal power in a 4G or 5G network measured in decibels per milliwatt (dBm).

Term	Definition
Non-National Mobile Network Operator	<p>For the purposes of the Program, a Non-National MNO means a company that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supplies a public mobile telecommunications service within the meaning of the <i>Telecommunications Act 1997</i> (Cth); ▪ Holds an apparatus or a spectrum licence (or both) for the supply of public mobile telecommunications services under the <i>Radiocommunications Act 1992</i> (Cth); and ▪ operates a mobile network that provides mobile coverage to less than 80% of the Australian population.
Selection Process	<p>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. Has the meaning described at section 8 of these Guidelines.</p>
Small Cell	<p>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.</p>
Value with Relevant Money	<p>Achieving ‘value with relevant money’ is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and ▪ the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history. <p>As further set out in section 8.2</p>
We/us	<p>The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts and/or Commonwealth Officials administering the Program.</p>