

“Guidelines

Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program 2008-09

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) the Australian Government will provide one-off funding of \$250 million in 2008-09 to local councils to stimulate additional growth and economic activity in Australia as part of the Australian Government’s contribution to address the global economic crisis.

These funds will be available for additional and ready-to-proceed community infrastructure projects and for additional stages of projects that are currently underway.

The funding will be provided directly to local governments as a one-off payment. The RLCIP will be administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department).

2. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

2.1 What can the funding be spent on?

The RLCIP will provide funding to local governments for community infrastructure including new construction and major renovations or refurbishments of assets such as:

- *social and cultural infrastructure (e.g. art spaces, gardens);*
- *recreational facilities (e.g. swimming pools, sports stadiums);*
- *tourism infrastructure (e.g. walkways, tourism information centres);*
- *children, youth and seniors facilities (e.g. playgroup centres, senior citizens’ centres);*
- *access facilities (e.g. boat ramps, footbridges); and*
- *environmental initiatives (e.g. drain and sewerage upgrades, recycling plants).*

Projects that can be funded need to be consistent with the attached list at Annexure A.

Funding can be used for:

- *construction or fit-out;*
- *preparatory work such as necessary engineering and geotechnical studies;*
- *land surveys and site investigations; and*
- *project management costs.*

2.2 What will not be funded?

Funding will not be available for activities such as ongoing costs (e.g. operational costs and maintenance); transport infrastructure, such as roads; or related infrastructure covered by the Roads to Recovery or Black Spots programs.

3. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Each Council or Shire will receive a base component of \$100,000 with the balance of the \$250 million to be distributed on a basis of a methodology which includes relative need, population and growth. Funding amounts for each Council are detailed at www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/index.aspx

Councils will be required to provide the Department with details of projects that will be funded by 30 January 2009. Councils will be required to enter into an agreement prior to receipt of the payment. Funding must be expended by 30 September 2009.

3.1 Payments

Requests for additional funding from the Australian Government will not be approved.

Payments will be structured to schedule the release of 100 per cent of funds to Councils on signing the agreement.

All funding must be expended by 30 September 2009, unless an extension of time has been agreed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

3.2 Progress reports

Once funding is confirmed the Council will be required to actively manage the project. It is recommended that Councils consider appropriate project management arrangements proportionate to the size and nature of the project.

The Department will monitor the project's progress and expenditure of the funding through reports received under the agreement and may conduct site visits.

By 30 May 2009, Councils will be required to provide a progress report on these projects.

By 30 November 2009, Councils will be required to provide details of progress on these projects; to provide a final report on the expenditure of Australian Government funding; and to demonstrate that they have spent the funding in accordance with the Guidelines. Action may be taken by the Department to recover funds where requirements have not been met.

Annexure A

Examples of Community Infrastructure

Social and cultural infrastructure

- Town halls
- Community centres
- Libraries
- Local heritage sites
- Museums
- Cultural centres
- Enhancement of main streets and public squares
- Theatre/music/art spaces
- Historic buildings
- Parks and gardens
- Internet kiosk infrastructure
- Kitchens for organisations
- Community market areas

Recreation facilities

- Sports grounds and facilities
- Sports stadiums
- Community recreation spaces
- Playgrounds
- Rail trails
- Swimming pools
- Walking tracks and bicycle paths
- Skate Parks
- BMX/Mountain Bike parks/trails
- Surf lifesaving clubs

Tourism infrastructure

- Convention or trade centres
- Memorial halls/walkways
- Tourism information centres
- Local infrastructure to support or provide access to tourist facilities
- Community public attractions
- Buildings for exhibits

Children, youth and seniors facilities

- Playgroup centres
- Youth centres
- Scout/guide halls
- Senior citizens' centres

Access facilities

- Disabled access infrastructure
- Footbridges
- Bus/rail terminal upgrade
- Jetties/wharves/piers/pontoons
- Foreshore development
- Boat ramps

Environmental Initiatives

- Water source and treatment
- Drain and sewerage upgrades
- Water conservation infrastructure
- Waste management and processing infrastructure
- Wastewater infrastructure
- Water recycling plants
- Water catchments
- Recycling plants

”

*“Guidelines
Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program –
Strategic Projects 2008-09*

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects (RLCIP – Strategic Projects) the Australian Government is making up to \$50 million available in 2008-09 to local government to stimulate additional growth and economic activity across Australia as a part of the Australian Government’s contribution to addressing the global economic crisis.

Under the RLCIP – Strategic Projects funding will be available to local government for a limited number of large strategic projects seeking a minimum Commonwealth contribution of \$2 million.

Larger projects and projects which include partnership funding will be given preference.

Projects will be allocated funding on a nationally competitive basis and will be assessed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) on a tight timetable.

All local councils, or groups of councils, are eligible to apply for funds under RLCIP - Strategic Projects. Local councils may also apply on behalf of not-for-profit organisations. There is a limit of one application per Council or group of Councils.

Eligible projects must be additional and ‘ready-to-proceed’ (the project must be ready to commence construction within six months of signing the Funding Agreement [contract]), or be additional stages of projects that are currently underway.

2. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

2. What can the funding be spent on?

RLCIP – Strategic Projects will provide funding for community infrastructure including new and major renovations or refurbishments such as:

- *social and cultural infrastructure (e.g. art spaces, gardens);*
- *recreational facilities (e.g. swimming pools, sports stadiums);*
- *tourism infrastructure (e.g. walkways, tourism information centres);*
- *children, youth and seniors facilities (e.g. playgroup centres, senior citizens’ centres);*
- *access facilities (e.g. boat ramps, footbridges); and*
- *environmental initiatives (e.g. drain and sewerage upgrades, recycling plants).*

Projects that can be funded need to be consistent with the attached list at Annexure A.

Funding can be used for:

- *construction or fit-out;*
- *preparatory work such as necessary engineering and geotechnical studies;*
- *land surveys and site preparation; and*
- *project management costs.*

2.2 What will not be funded?

Funding will not be available for activities such as ongoing costs (e.g. operational costs and maintenance), transport infrastructure, such as roads, or related infrastructure covered by the Roads to Recovery or Black Spots programs.

2.3 How RLCIP - Strategic Projects proposals will be assessed

2.3.1 The application process

Local councils are required to complete the application form available from www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/index.aspx

Application forms can either be sent in hard copy to:

Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Or emailed to < RegionalGrants@infrastructure.gov.au > .

A final and complete application form including all supporting documentation must be received by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) by 4pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time) on 23 December 2008.

Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

2.3.2 Obtaining information about the project

In order that RLCIP – Strategic Projects can be assessed for funding by the Department, each proponent will need to provide the following:

- details of the Council;
- details of the project funding including other contribution arrangements;
- financial information including quotations, cost estimates and budgets;
- project timeframes;
- project delivery information including project and business plans; and
- all statutory and other approvals required if relevant for the project .

Councils will also need to provide authorisation for the Department to undertake an Independent Viability Assessment if necessary.

2.3.3 Assessment of Applications

Based on the information provided, the Department will conduct a risk analysis of the Council undertaking the proposed project.

Proponent viability

In the risk analysis of the project, consideration will be given to the financial viability of the proponent.

Project viability

Project viability will be considered from two perspectives: whether the project can be completed on time and within budget; and whether the project will be sustainable.

Important aspects that may be considered in relation to the overall viability of the project include:

- evidence of the Council's expertise/skills to deliver the project in a timely manner and sustain it into the future;
- ownership and/or lease arrangements of equipment or facilities or other assets to be used in the delivery of the project;
- the level and status (e.g. contribution received; contribution committed but yet to be received; contribution in negotiation) of any of the funding contributions for the project and whether there are conditions attached to this funding;
- the budget and costings;
- feasibility studies or project plans;
- information on whether there is any need for planning approvals or licences and that these requirements have been met or fully considered;

- *business and project plans and cash flow projections;*
- *ongoing maintenance and management strategies;*
- *funding that may be required for any future stages of the project;*
- *whether the project had previous stages, how it was funded in the past; and*
- *the results of any independent viability assessments if undertaken (copies of independent viability assessments undertaken by the Council should be provided).*

Independent Viability Assessments

Where the Australian Government believes there are risks with the viability of the proponent or project that require further consideration, an Independent Viability Assessment (IVA) will be undertaken by a qualified external consultant engaged by the Department. The findings of the IVA will be considered in the project analysis.

Ranking applications

The Department will rank applications under three categories:

- *recommended;*
- *not recommended; and*
- *non-compliant.*

2.3.4 Consultation with the Australian Council of Local Government

Those applications ranked by the Department as recommended will be provided to the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) for its comment. These comments will be provided to the decision maker. ACLG members will need to sign a confidentiality agreement and declare any conflicts of interest.

2.3 Approval of Funding

Following the due diligence assessment and ranking of the project by the Department a decision on funding will be sought from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

The Minister will consider whether the project is consistent with the requirements of Commonwealth legislation and whether any risk treatments will need to be imposed as a condition of funding, based on risk assessments undertaken.

A letter will be sent to the Council advising whether funding has been approved and if there are any conditions attached to that funding.

Before any funding can be paid, the proponent will need to enter into a Funding Agreement (contract) with the Australian Government that will set out the terms and conditions under which the funding is provided.

Proponents should not make financial commitments based on notification of funding approval from the Australian Government until the Funding Agreement (contract) has been executed by both parties.

Requests for additional funding from the Australian Government will not be approved.

Changes to the partnership arrangements or requests to change the scope of the project that do not involve the provision of additional funding by the Australian Government will be considered.

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government expects to announce successful projects by February 2009.

3. Contracting and Funding

3.1 Accountability

The provision of funding for RLCIP- Strategic Projects will be conditional upon proponents entering into Funding Agreements (contracts) with the Commonwealth (represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government). The Funding Agreement (contract) is a legally enforceable document which defines the obligations of both parties.

3.2 Funding Agreements and Payments

The Department will work with the proponent with the aim of finalising the Funding Agreement (contract) within 4 weeks of the letter of offer. The offer of funding may be withdrawn if the proponent cannot meet this timeframe or has not obtained agreement from the Department to obtain an extension to this timeframe.

The executed Funding Agreement (contract) will define the obligations of both parties. It will describe the purpose for which Australian Government funding must be used and will provide a description of how, when and where the project must be delivered.

Construction must commence within six months of the Funding Agreement (contract) being signed. Funding Agreements (contracts) will be structured to schedule the release of 100 per cent of funds to proponents on signing of the Funding Agreement (contract) and confirmation of commencement date of construction.

Action may be taken by the Department to terminate Funding Agreements (contracts) where requirements have not been met.

3.3 Progress reports

Once funding is confirmed the proponent will be required to actively manage the project.

It is recommended that proponents consider appointing appropriate project management arrangements proportionate to the size and nature of the project.

The Department will monitor the project's progress through reports received under the Funding Agreement (contract) at agreed milestones and may conduct site visits.

Annexure A

Examples of Community Infrastructure

Social and cultural infrastructure

- Town halls
- Community centres
- Libraries
- Local heritage sites
- Museums
- Cultural centres
- Enhancement of main streets and public squares
- Theatre/music/art spaces
- Historic buildings
- Parks and gardens
- Internet kiosk infrastructure
- Kitchens for organisations
- Community market areas

Recreation facilities

- Sports grounds and facilities
- Sports stadiums
- Community recreation spaces
- Playgrounds
- Rail trails
- Swimming pools
- Walking tracks and bicycle paths
- Skate Parks
- BMX/Mountain Bike parks/trails
- Surf lifesaving clubs

Tourism infrastructure

- Convention or trade centres
- Memorial halls/walkways
- Tourism information centres
- Local infrastructure to support or provide access to tourist facilities
- Community public attractions
- Buildings for exhibits

Children, youth and seniors facilities

- Playgroup centres
- Youth centres
- Scout/guide halls
- Senior citizens' centres

Access facilities

- Disabled access infrastructure
- Footbridges
- Bus/rail terminal upgrade
- Jetties/wharves/piers/pontoons
- Foreshore development
- Boat ramps

Environmental Initiatives

- Water source and treatment
- Drain and sewerage upgrades
- Water conservation infrastructure
- Waste management and processing infrastructure
- Wastewater infrastructure
- Water recycling plants
- Water catchments
- Recycling plants

..

*Appendix 9.4.7C***Western Australia**

Council Name	Council Allocation
Albany (C)	\$626,000
Armadale (C)	\$697,000
Ashburton (S)	\$536,000
Augusta-Margaret River (S)	\$131,000
Bassendean (T)	\$139,000
Bayswater (C)	\$263,000
Belmont (C)	\$190,000
Beverley (S)	\$100,000
Boddington (S)	\$100,000
Boyup Brook (S)	\$100,000
Bridgetown-Greenbushes (S)	\$100,000
Brookton (S)	\$100,000
Broome (S)	\$458,000
Broomehill - Tambellup	\$100,000
Bruce Rock (S)	\$100,000
Bunbury (C)	\$487,000
Busselton (S)	\$176,000
Cambridge (T)	\$170,000
Canning (C)	\$329,000
Capel (S)	\$214,000
Carnamah (S)	\$100,000
Carnarvon (S)	\$493,000
Chapman Valley (S)	\$100,000
Chittering (S)	\$100,000
Claremont (T)	\$126,000
Cockburn (C)	\$623,000
Collie (S)	\$327,000
Coolgardie (S)	\$100,000
Coorow (S)	\$100,000
Corrigin (S)	\$100,000
Cottesloe (T)	\$122,000
Cranbrook (S)	\$100,000
Cuballing (S)	\$100,000
Cue (S)	\$100,000
Cunderdin (S)	\$100,000

Western Australia

Council Name	Council Allocation
Dalwallinu (S)	\$100,000
Dandaragan (S)	\$100,000
Dardanup (S)	\$195,000
Denmark (S)	\$100,000
Derby-West Kimberley (S)	\$768,000
Donnybrook-Balingup (S)	\$214,000
Dowerin (S)	\$100,000
Dumbleyung (S)	\$100,000
Dundas (S)	\$100,000
East Fremantle (T)	\$119,000
East Pilbara (S)	\$539,000
Esperance (S)	\$300,000
Exmouth (S)	\$100,000
Fremantle (C)	\$174,000
Geraldton-Greenough (C)	\$772,000
Gingin (S)	\$100,000
Gnowangerup (S)	\$100,000
Goomalling (S)	\$100,000
Gosnells (C)	\$668,000
Halls Creek (S)	\$100,000
Harvey (S)	\$248,000
Irwin (S)	\$100,000
Jerramungup (S)	\$100,000
Joondalup (C)	\$833,000
Kalamunda (S)	\$544,000
Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C)	\$537,000
Katanning (S)	\$100,000
Kellerberrin (S)	\$100,000
Kent (S)	\$100,000
Kojonup (S)	\$100,000
Kondinin (S)	\$100,000
Koorda (S)	\$100,000
Kulin (S)	\$100,000
Kwinana (T)	\$169,000
Lake Grace (S)	\$100,000
Laverton (S)	\$100,000
Leonora (S)	\$100,000

Western Australia

Council Name	Council Allocation
Mandurah (C)	\$567,000
Manjimup (S)	\$345,000
Meekatharra (S)	\$100,000
Melville (C)	\$375,000
Menzies (S)	\$100,000
Merredin (S)	\$100,000
Mingenew (S)	\$100,000
Moora (S)	\$100,000
Morawa (S)	\$100,000
Mosman Park (T)	\$124,000
Mount Magnet (S)	\$100,000
Mount Marshall (S)	\$100,000
Mukinbudin (S)	\$100,000
Mullewa (S)	\$100,000
Mundaring (S)	\$716,000
Murchison (S)	\$100,000
Murray (S)	\$287,000
Nannup (S)	\$100,000
Narembeen (S)	\$100,000
Narrogin (S)	\$100,000
Narrogin (T)	\$100,000
Nedlands (C)	\$160,000
Ngaanyatjarraku (S)	\$100,000
Northam (S)	\$345,000
Northampton (S)	\$100,000
Nungarin (S)	\$100,000
Peppermint Grove (S)	\$100,000
Perenjori (S)	\$100,000
Perth (C)	\$137,000
Pingelly (S)	\$100,000
Plantagenet (S)	\$100,000
Port Hedland (T)	\$381,000
Quairading (S)	\$100,000
Ravensthorpe (S)	\$100,000
Rockingham (C)	\$653,000
Roebourne (S)	\$448,000
Sandstone (S)	\$100,000
Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S)	\$298,000

Western Australia

Council Name	Council Allocation
Shark Bay (S)	\$100,000
South Perth (C)	\$215,000
Stirling (C)	\$621,000
Subiaco (C)	\$149,000
Swan (S)	\$677,000
Tammin (S)	\$100,000
Three Springs (S)	\$100,000
Toodyay (S)	\$100,000
Trayning (S)	\$100,000
Upper Gascoyne (S)	\$100,000
Victoria Park (T)	\$183,000
Victoria Plains (S)	\$100,000
Vincent (T)	\$183,000
Wagin (S)	\$100,000
Wandering (S)	\$100,000
Wanneroo (C)	\$744,000
Waroona (S)	\$100,000
West Arthur (S)	\$100,000
Westonia (S)	\$100,000
Wickepin (S)	\$100,000
Williams (S)	\$100,000
Wiluna (S)	\$100,000
Wongan-Ballidu (S)	\$100,000
Woodanilling (S)	\$100,000
Wyalkatchem (S)	\$100,000
Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)	\$532,000
Yalgoo (S)	\$100,000
Yilgarn (S)	\$100,000
York (S)	\$100,000
WA Total	\$28,927,000