

2016-17 Grants and Subsidies Programs

- Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program
- Community Resilience Fund
- Natural Disaster Resilience Program

Guidelines

September 2016

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Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the Department) is responsible for administering the following three application based grants and subsidies programs (the Programs):

- Community Resilience Fund (CRF)
- Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP)
- Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) (jointly funded with the Australian Government).

In keeping with the Department's commitment to reduce the administrative burden on applicants, a streamlined process has been introduced for 2016-17. This includes a new Funding Deed of Agreement that will be executed with eligible organisations, a single smart form for Expression of Interest (EOI) and a fast-tracking option to allow for EOIs to be assessed and funding released sooner.

Objectives and Aims

The core objectives of the Programs are to:

- reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards and build community resilience
- support the delivery of infrastructure that meets community needs and increases local employment and growth
- deliver key natural disaster mitigation infrastructure
- support projects that align with state, regional and local priorities.

These objectives are supported by specific program aims (see **Attachment A**).

Funding

Total 2016-17 funding for the Programs is \$62.3 million, of which \$12 million is provided by the Australian Government under NDRP.

Projects approved for funding under the 2016-17 Programs will be allocated a subsidy of up to **60 per cent** of eligible project costs, which is total project cost, less ineligible costs, less other financial contributions. All applicants are expected to make a financial contribution to the project. While applicants may request a higher subsidy rate, the final funding percentage will be determined at the absolute discretion of the Minister.

Successful applicants will have up to 12 months from the date of formal advice of funding approval to complete the approved project. Additional delivery time may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Funding may be prioritised for projects where the:

- applicant has a demonstrated limited capacity to self-fund a project, and/or
- project supports local employment and training opportunities.

Eligibility

Eligible organisations include:

Eligible organisations	CRF	LGGSP	NDRP
Local government bodies constituted under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> and the <i>City of Brisbane Act 2010</i>	✓	✓	✓
Regional Organisations of Councils			✓
River Improvement Trusts			✓
Government bodies, including Queensland Government departments and other government agencies within Queensland			✓
Government owned corporations			✓
Incorporated non-government organisations (including volunteer groups), and Queensland-based not-for-profits			✓

Eligible organisations must also meet eligibility criteria relating to the type of project (refer to **Attachment B**) and the project costs (refer to **Attachment C**).

EOI, Assessment and Approval

Eligible organisations are invited to submit an EOI smart form for each project for which funding is sought. The key assessment criteria include:

- consistency with the objectives and aims of the programs
- demonstrated need, financial soundness and value for money
- capacity to deliver the project in the required timeframes.

Assessment will be conducted by the Department, consistent with these guidelines.

Applications will be shortlisted and eligible applicants asked to provide additional information.

The Department, however, may fast-track EOIs received under the 2016-17 Programs. That is, there is the potential for the EOI to move directly to Ministerial approval with nil or minimal further information being required. In addition to meeting the key assessment criteria above, projects will be fast-tracked based on the following considerations:

- size of the requested subsidy
- project priority assigned by the applicant
- project readiness.

The Minister has absolute discretion in funding decisions and is under no obligation to consider submissions made after the Programs have closed.

All applicants will be advised of the outcomes.

How to apply

- Download the 2016–17 EOI smart form at www.dilgp.qld.gov.au
- Enter requested information directly into the provided fields
- Ensure the **Certification Form** is completed and signed
- Review and submit electronically via email, the completed EOI smart form, supporting documentation and Certification Form to **2016-17gsp@dilgp.qld.gov.au**.

Key dates:

- Closing date for EOI – Wednesday 28 September 2016
- Further information request for shortlisted projects –1-2 weeks after closing
- Fast-tracked projects approved – from 12 October 2016
- Remaining projects considered for approval – from 26 October 2016.

For more information, contact the Department:

Brisbane Program Office Phone: 3452 6725

NORTHERN REGION

Cairns Office Phone: 4037 3407 or 4037 3411

Townsville Office Phone: 4758 3420 or 4758 3427

Rockhampton Office Phone: 4924 2908

SOUTHERN REGION

Brisbane Office Phone: 3452 6762

Toowoomba Office Phone: 4616 7315

Maroochydore Office Phone: 5352 9711

Maryborough Office Phone: 4122 0410

Attachment A – Aims

Community Resilience Fund (CRF)

The aim of the CRF is to make Queensland communities more resilient to natural disasters, and reduce future expenditure on asset restoration by funding projects that:

- align with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, delivering essential disaster mitigation infrastructure
- protect existing essential public infrastructure identified as at risk from natural disasters
- safeguard residents from the impacts of disasters in identified at risk communities
- deliver key cyclone and flood mitigation infrastructure
- reduce the risk to Queensland communities of bushfires and other natural hazards
- build partnerships between sectors, and encourage a regional and catchment area approach to mitigation and resilience
- support communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change, thereby reducing the costs of recovery from flood, cyclone and other natural disaster events.

Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP)

The aim of the LGGSP is to support local governments to deliver key infrastructure projects that:

- meet community needs, contributing to sustainable and liveable communities
- align with state, regional and local priorities
- support economic growth, innovation and community development, increasing local job creation and training opportunities
- contribute to building safe, caring and connected communities, enhancing access to infrastructure and services
- protect public health
- provide efficient and cost-effective outcomes through a regional, collaborative approach.

Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)

The aim of the NDRP is to reduce Queensland communities' vulnerability to natural hazards and build community resilience by:

- mitigating against or building resilience to Queensland's highest natural hazard risks as identified in the 2012 State-wide Natural Hazard Risk Assessment:
 - flooding (including flash flooding)
 - tropical cyclone winds and storm surge
 - thunderstorm wind gusts, downbursts and tornadoes
 - hail storms
 - bushfires
 - landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis.
- reducing the risk to Queensland communities of bushfires
- providing support to emergency management volunteers

- enhancing community preparedness for natural events through community education and awareness training
- building partnerships between sectors and encouraging a regional and catchment area approach to mitigation and resilience
- contributing towards the action themes of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience February 2011.

Attachment B – Project Eligibility

The following projects may be considered eligible under the Programs.

	CRF	LGGSP	NDRP
Essential public infrastructure			
Capital infrastructure projects that are new constructions, or an expansion, renovation or replacement of an existing facility or facilities		✓	
Water and sewerage infrastructure		✓	
Social and cultural infrastructure, such as libraries, museums and cultural centres		✓	
Community safety infrastructure		✓	
Economic development, such as town centres and streetscaping, tourist infrastructure, internet kiosks and wireless access		✓	
All hazards			
Natural hazard risk assessments and studies			✓
Research and/or development projects			✓
Community preparedness, education and training programs			✓
Development of evacuation plans			✓
Local volunteer capacity building			✓
Purchase of disaster management equipment e.g. generators, portable communications kits, lighting towers and high frequency radios.			✓
Bushfire			
Identifying and addressing bushfire mitigation risk priorities across the state	✓		✓
Construction and maintenance of fire trails and associated accessibility measures that contribute to safer, sustainable communities better able to prepare, respond to and withstand the effects of bushfires	✓		✓
Implementation of land use planning and building control requirements	✓		✓
Fuel reduction e.g. slashing and/or burning	✓		✓
Development and installation of systems enabling public warnings/communications, including fire towers	✓		✓
Physical protection of essential services and other assets of value	✓		✓
Fire refuges and other bushfire shelter options	✓		✓
Ensuring both public-use and fire crew access and exit routes exist	✓		✓
Flood			
Flood mitigation infrastructure such as levees, detention basins, floodgates, backflow prevention devices, diversion channels, storm surge protection in areas of identified need or at risk from the impacts of climate change	✓		✓
Flood mapping, flood management studies, reports or modelling			✓
Bridges, culverts and causeways	✓		✓
Bridge and road raising or re-alignment	✓		✓
Early flood warning systems	✓		✓
Flood monitoring instruments/systems (e.g. flood, river and rain gauges).	✓		✓
Replacement/upgrading of identified at-risk road networks to improve resilience and functionality minimising road closure times and traffic interruptions during and after major rainfall and flooding	✓		✓
Embankment stabilisation	✓		✓
Drainage management pump stations	✓		✓
Stormwater systems, floodway and culvert upgrades and major drain widening to improve stormwater management	✓		✓
Projects that enhance the resilience of essential public infrastructure (e.g. assets that are key to the functioning of the community such as economic and public safety assets).	✓		✓
Projects that are informed by a completed flood management study incorporating consideration of the potential impact on other communities with the catchment	✓		✓

Attachment C – Project Cost Eligibility

Funding is intended only to assist with direct eligible project costs. This includes total project costs less ineligible costs, less other financial contributions to the approved project.

Except where prior written agreement has been reached with the Department to incur such costs, **ineligible** costs include:

- pre-planning activities, including pre-construction, that commence prior to the date of formal advice of funding approval
- works that have already commenced or been completed
- duplication of existing initiatives
- core business for an organisation
- purchase of core business capital equipment such as motor vehicles and office equipment
- remuneration of executive officers
- temporary works, except where required as part of the construction of the eligible works or required to enable completion of the proposed project
- land acquisition and associated costs
- completed feasibility and planning studies
- conceptual design
- statutory fees and charges and any costs associated with obtaining regulatory and/or development approvals
- legal expenses
- house raising or relocation
- furnishings and supplies
- in-kind contributions
- official opening expenses (excluding permanent signage)
- ongoing costs for administration, operation and maintenance or engineering
- remuneration of employees for work not directly related to the proposed project
- overhead charges
- vehicle purchasing
- vehicle leasing, unless directly required for construction, e.g. water trucks, excavators
- costs of preparing the EOI for funding or associated supporting material.

The above list identifies the most common examples of ineligible costs and is not intended to be comprehensive. If there is any doubt about ineligible costs, please contact the Department.