



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

GUIDELINES



National Stronger Regions Fund

Promoting Economic Development in Australia's Regions

Round Three Guidelines

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The Australian Government is committed to building stronger regions. We understand the proud history of Australia's regions and their importance to our future economic prosperity. To strengthen communities and drive new growth in our regions, the Australian Government is inviting applications to the next Round of the National Stronger Regions Fund.

The Fund is investing \$1 billion over five years to support investment in priority economic and infrastructure areas – from freight and transport projects to convention centres and major multi-purpose sports facilities. These investments have a major focus on strengthening economies in Australia's regions by improving the productivity, employment, and workforce skills of Australians.

The Government's investment is enhancing the economic growth, activity and output of our regions and will sustain these gains into the future. The Fund has a particular focus on assisting disadvantaged regions to achieve growth.

The Fund is investing in crucial infrastructure projects that are being conceived by local communities – and this approach is helping Australia's regions invest in their own future.

As well as providing direct investment in major projects and delivering economic and social benefits, the Fund is improving the capacity of organisations to deliver projects. To deliver the best critical infrastructure outcomes, the Fund encourages the formation of strong partnerships that engage project proponents with the private sector, and local, state and territory governments.

Projects seeking funding are considered in consultation with the Government's National Infrastructure Committee, which has a strong interest in, and commitment to, harnessing the potential of Australia's regions.

The Guidelines for the National Stronger Regions Fund provide the information you need about the type of project proposals we are seeking, how proposals are assessed, critical dates, and how you contact our Department to help you with further information.

We welcome your interest in the National Stronger Regions Fund, and wish you all the best with your proposal.

The Hon Warren Truss MP
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Infrastructure and
Regional Development

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP
Minister for Major Projects,
Territories and Local
Government

The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Assistant Minister to the Deputy
Prime Minister

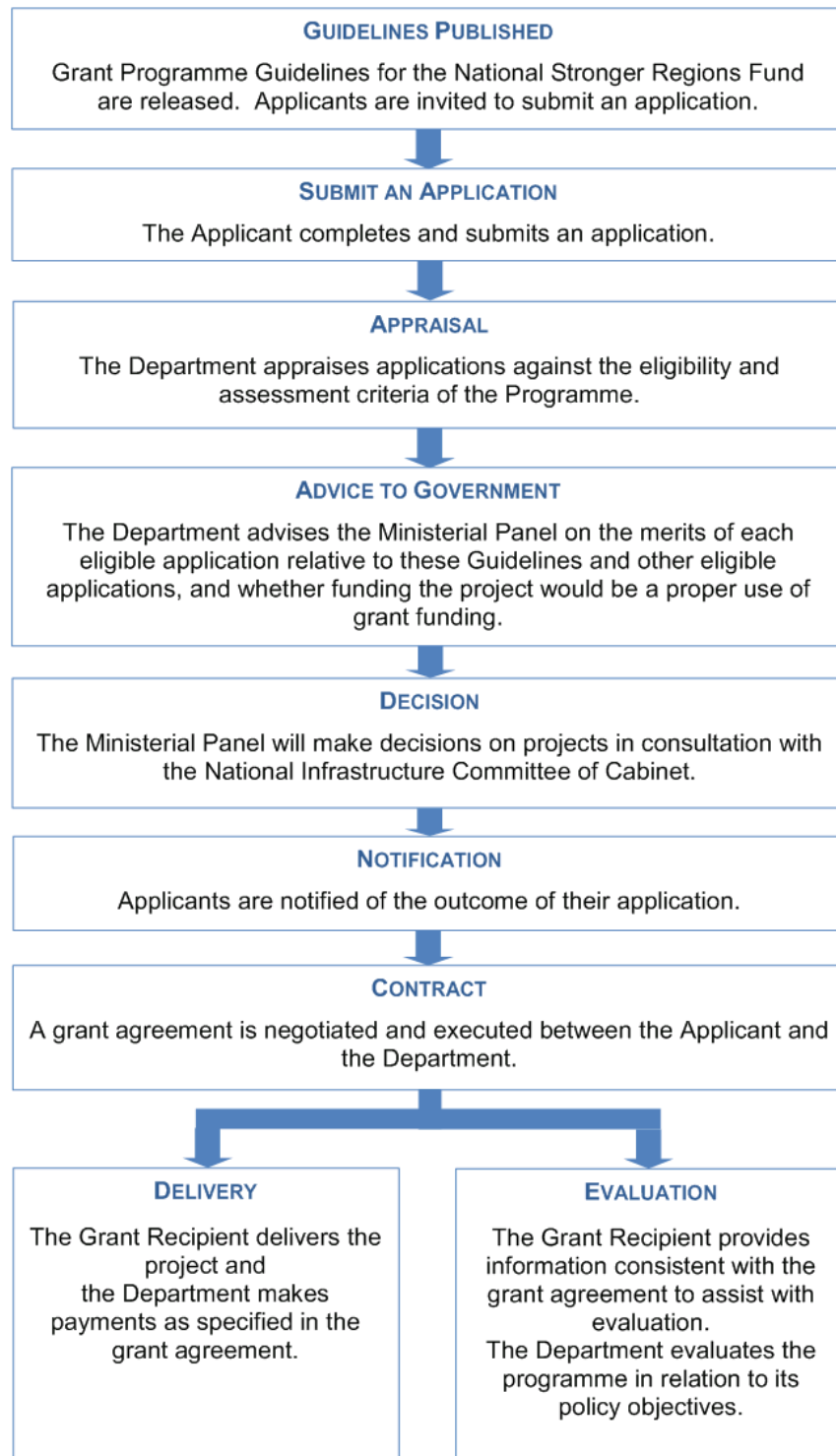
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Grant Programme Process Flowchart



1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

The National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) promotes economic development in Australia's regions. The Australian Government is providing \$1 billion over five years, commencing in 2015-16, to fund priority infrastructure in local communities.

The NSRF is a competitive grant programme, with decisions on projects to be funded based on information provided in the application and supporting documents, amongst other things.

Applications for funding are appraised against the eligibility and assessment criteria of the NSRF and whether funding the project would be a proper¹ use of Australian Government funds. Decisions on projects to be funded are taken by a Ministerial Panel in consultation with the Government's National Infrastructure Committee of Cabinet.

These Grant Programme Guidelines (the Guidelines) apply to all projects seeking funding from the NSRF. The Guidelines outline the objectives and desired outcomes of the NSRF, eligibility and assessment requirements, the application and appraisal process, roles and responsibilities, and funding arrangements.

The Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Frequently Asked Questions and the GMS Portal Application Guide which provides guidance on the online application. These are all available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/nsrf>.

1.2. Programme objective and outcomes

The objective of the NSRF is to fund investment ready projects which support economic growth and sustainability of regions across Australia, particularly disadvantaged regions, by supporting investment in priority infrastructure.

The desired outcomes of the programme are:

- improved level of economic activity in regions;
- increased productivity in the regions;
- increased employment and a more skilled workforce in regions;
- increased capacity and improved capability of regions to deliver major projects, and to secure and manage investment funding;
- improved partnerships between local, state and territory governments, the private sector and community groups; and
- more stable and viable communities, where people choose to live.

Not all projects will be able to contribute to each desired outcome, however collectively the projects will meet the NSRF objective and desired outcomes.

¹ Proper' is defined in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* as meaning 'efficient, effective, economical and ethical'.

1.3. Roles and responsibilities

The NSRF is administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (the Department).

The Ministerial Panel considers the Department's advice, information provided by the Applicant, independent advice on projects, and consults with the National Infrastructure Committee of Cabinet before making decisions on projects to be funded. The Ministerial Panel comprises:

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP;
- the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government;
- the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister; and
- Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, Assistant Cabinet Secretary

For the purposes of these Guidelines, the Applicant means the organisation that submits the application and will be the organisation entering into the grant agreement if grant funding is approved. On entering into the grant agreement, this organisation will be referred to as the Grant Recipient.

The *Process Flowchart* on page 6 of these Guidelines outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party.

2. Key Dates

Key Dates	
NSRF Announced	1 October 2014
Round Three Guidelines Released	December 2015
Round Three Applications Open	15 January 2016
Round Three Applications Close	15 March 2016
Round Three Assessment Completed	30 June 2016
Announcements of Round Three Projects to be Funded	July 2016

Decisions on further Rounds will be determined by Government. All key dates will be published on the Department's website.

3. How to Apply

Applicants should note a full list of applications including Applicant name, project title, location and funding amount requested will be published on the Department's website.

3.1. Application period

- Applications for the NSRF can be submitted at any time between the opening and closing dates for each Round. Applications must be received by 5.00pm local time on 15 March 2016 for Round Three (note local time refers to the Applicant's local time).
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications in advance of the deadline.



- **Late applications** will not be accepted, unless the Department considers there were exceptional circumstances beyond the Applicant's control. The Department's decision will be final.

3.2. Application requirements

- Applicants can submit up to two applications per round.
- Applicants must provide all of the information required in the application form. Evidence should also be provided to support the claims made against the assessment criteria.
- Only completed applications submitted by an authorised member of the organisation will be accepted and appraised. Incomplete applications will be deemed as ineligible.
- Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by advising the Department via email to nsrf@infrastructure.gov.au.

3.3. How to submit an application

- Applications must be submitted via the online application form, which is accessed from the Department's Grant Management System (GMS) Portal at <http://gms.infrastructure.gov.au/UI>.
- Supporting documents must be uploaded with the application. There are limitations on the size and number of these documents.
- Further information on lodging an application and supporting documentation is available in the GMS Portal Application Guide at www.infrastructure.gov.au/nsrf.
- Separate arrangements for lodgement may only be made in exceptional circumstances and will only be accepted following formal advice from the Department. Requests for separate lodgement arrangements should be submitted in writing prior to the close of applications to nsrf@infrastructure.gov.au.

3.4. Regional Development Australia Committees' support

- Applicants are encouraged to seek the support of their Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee for their project.
- RDA Committees can:
 - assist Applicants to identify and develop worthwhile project proposals that contribute to long term economic growth and have been identified as priorities within their region, and
 - work with Applicants to prepare competitive applications, supporting documents and evidence.
- RDA Committees may also approach eligible organisations about developing an application for an infrastructure project or play a facilitation role by bringing key parties together, including those who may provide a financial contribution to the project.
- RDA committees will not be involved in the appraisal or prioritisation of applications.

4. Eligibility

- Ineligible applications or eligible applications submitted by ineligible Applicants will not be appraised against the assessment criteria.

4.1. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must comply with all of the following requirements at the time of application for a project to be considered eligible for NSRF funding:

- be an eligible applicant (see 4.2 and 4.3);
- be for an eligible project (see 4.4 and 4.5);
- seek a grant of at least \$20,000 and up to a maximum of \$10 million;
- contribute partner funding to match the NSRF grant in cash on at least a dollar for dollar basis. Applicants classified as remote and very remote must contribute at least one dollar for every three dollars of NSRF grant funding sought;
- provide evidence confirming all partner funding;
- complete the NSRF funded component of the project on or before 31 December 2019;
- deliver an economic benefit to the region beyond the period of construction; and
- submit a completed application.

Notes:

1. Cash partner funding can be provided by any organisation including, but not limited to, the Applicant, local government, state or territory governments, not-for-profit organisations and private sector companies.
2. Grants from other Australian Government initiatives cannot be included as part of the Applicant's cash partner funding. Northern Territory Applicants, however, can use funds accessed through the Aboriginal Benefits Accounts (ABA) towards their cash partner funding.
3. Applicants classified as remote and very remote for the purposes of NSRF are defined in Attachment B of these Guidelines. To be considered as remote and very remote both the applicant and the benefits of the project must be located entirely in a location deemed to be remote or very remote.
4. An NSRF grant can be one component of a larger package of Australian Government funding. Total funding for the project from the Australian Government, however, cannot exceed 50 per cent of the total cash project cost with the exception of those Applicants identified in Notes two and three above.

4.2. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

An Eligible Applicant for funding must be:

1. a legal entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
2. an organisation that is one of the following:
 - a Local Government body including the ACT Government, either in its own right or on behalf of a consortium; or
 - a not-for-profit organisation, either in its own right or on behalf of a consortium, that is not owned by a state or territory government.

Eligible Applicants are defined in Attachment A.

Notes:

1. A consortium must be supported by appropriate legal arrangements, and must be led by an Eligible Applicant, which has a financial or in-kind commitment to the project. A consortium may include ineligible organisations. Evidence of the legal arrangements should be submitted with the application.
2. Not-for-profit organisations must provide the following evidence of their not-for-profit status with their application:
 - Audited Financial Statements for two of the three most recent consecutive years signed by a qualified auditor; **and one or more of the following:**
 - Current Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's (ACNC) Registration; and/or
 - Constitutional documents and/or Articles of Association that demonstrate the not-for-profit character of the organisation.

4.3. Who is not eligible to apply for funding?

The following organisations are not eligible for funding:

- New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory governments;
- state and territory government-owned entities;
- state and territory government-owned not-for-profit organisations;
- universities, technical colleges, schools and hospitals or business entities owned by them;
- other organisations that are primarily funded by other Australian Government programmes or initiatives;
- Regional Development Australia committees; and
- for-profit organisations.

4.4. What is eligible for funding?

NSRF funding will be provided for capital projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or an extension of existing infrastructure. Note the replacement of existing infrastructure will only be eligible where there is a demonstrated significant increase in productivity.


4.5. What is not eligible for funding?

The NSRF will not fund projects that:

- do not have evidence that all partner funding is confirmed at the time of application;
- do not deliver sustainable economic benefits, including job creation;
- are eligible for funding under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements;
- shift costs from state, territory or local governments to the Australian Government; and/or
- are integral elements of hospitals, as they are funded by other Government initiatives.

The purpose of NSRF is to fund capital projects which involve the construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade or an extension of existing infrastructure. NSRF grant funding and partner funding must go towards capital works related to the project and cannot include:

- repair or replacement of existing infrastructure where there is no demonstrated significant increase in productivity;

- 
- ongoing operating costs including utilities and/or staffing;
 - soft infrastructure, including computer software or hardware that is not an integral part of the funded capital project;
 - payment of salaries for the applicant's employees; and/or
 - project overhead items, including office equipment, vehicles or mobile capital equipment, for example trucks and earthmoving equipment.

In addition, NSRF grant funding cannot be used for expenditure incurred prior to the announcement that the project has been successful in its application for NSRF grant funding.

5. Assessment Criteria

Each application that meets the eligibility requirements will be appraised against the assessment criteria. Applicants are strongly advised to present a strong case against each of the assessment criteria, with all claims supported by evidence.

Evidence can be provided as part of the response to assessment criteria or in supporting documentation. Independent evidence is highly regarded.

Applicants seeking a grant of \$1 million or less may provide less detailed supporting documents. This reduces the compliance burden associated with small projects, whilst ensuring that the Department has sufficient information to conduct robust appraisals. The size and content of documents, and the level of evidence to support responses to the assessment criteria, should be commensurate with the size, scope and nature of the project.

Each application must meet a minimum benchmark against each of the assessment criteria to be recommended for funding to the Ministerial Panel.

Applications will be appraised against each of the following assessment criteria:

- Assessment Criterion 1: The extent to which the project contributes to economic growth in the region;
- Assessment Criterion 2: The extent to which the project addresses disadvantage in the region;
- Assessment Criterion 3: The extent to which the project increases investment and builds partnerships in the region; and
- Assessment Criterion 4: The extent to which the project and proponent are viable and sustainable.

All projects must deliver an economic benefit to disadvantaged regions. Assessment Criteria will be weighted as follows:

- Assessment Criterion 1 will represent three parts of the seven part total assessment score;
- Assessment Criterion 2 will represent two parts of the seven part total assessment score;
- Assessment Criteria 3 and 4 will represent one part each of the seven part total assessment score.



5.1. Assessment Criterion 1: The extent to which the project contributes to economic growth in the region

Applicants must address the following points when responding to this criterion:

- define and quantify the economic benefits this project will bring to the region;
- demonstrate how the economic benefits will be sustained beyond the period of construction; and
- provide evidence to support these claims.

Notes:

1. The economic benefit identified should relate directly to the project being funded under NSRF.
2. Any broader economic benefits that may be achieved from a larger programme of works associated with the NSRF identified project can also be identified separately but are not essential.
3. Social and community benefits that will be achieved as a result of the economic growth identified may also be described.
4. Again, these benefits should be quantified and supported by evidence.

A competitive application will include the following documents to support its claim, noting that documentation should be commensurate with the size, scope and nature of the project:

- Business Case or similar document
- Project Management Plan or similar document

A Cost Benefit Analysis is strongly encouraged, particularly for those projects seeking funding of more than \$1 million.

5.2. Assessment Criterion 2: The extent to which the project addresses disadvantage in a region

This criterion will be assessed and scored in two equal parts.

Applicants must address each of the following questions in their response to this criterion.

- What disadvantage does this project address?
- How does the project address the identified disadvantage?

Responses should:

- Clearly demonstrate the relationship between the project seeking funding and the disadvantage;
- Quantify and provide evidence to support the claim of disadvantage; and
- Ensure any data quoted in support of the claim of disadvantage is correctly referenced and comparisons explained as the Department will assess on the information provided. Applications will be strengthened if any data references quoted are supported by evidence.

Notes:

- | |
|--|
| 1. For the purposes of NSRF disadvantage may relate to a region which is disadvantaged or an area of disadvantage within a region. |
|--|

5.3. Assessment Criterion 3: The extent to which the project increases investment and builds partnerships in the region

Applicants must address the following point when responding to this criterion:

- The extent and nature of the partnerships, including those of a non-financial nature, formed to develop and deliver the project.

Under this criterion, the following will be considered:

- How much partner funding has been confirmed above the minimum requirement;
- How many partners are committed to the project; and
- Both cash and in-kind contributions will be taken into account, with a preference for cash.

To be eligible for funding written confirmation of all cash and in-kind contributions must be provided. For cash contributions this confirmation should be in the form of a letter of intent or similar from a senior member of the organisation providing funding which outlines the amount of funding committed, the NSRF project name, and any conditions attached to the funding commitment. The certification in the application form is sufficient confirmation for the Applicant's contribution.

5.4. Assessment Criterion 4: The extent to which the project and Applicant are viable and sustainable

Applicants should provide sufficient information under this response to provide assurance the project will be delivered and remain viable beyond the period of construction.

The appraisal will consider all of the following:

- the Applicant's financial position, which determines whether the Applicant has sufficient funds to meet its obligations, fund any cost overruns and maintain the project;
- the quality of supporting documents which gives confidence the project will be delivered on time, on budget and to the required standard;
- whether all appropriate planning, construction, zoning, environmental, heritage and/or native title approvals have been identified, are in place or will be in place within six months of execution of the funding agreement, to help confirm that the project will commence and be completed on time and according to the agreed scope;
- whether the project is investment ready, that is construction will commence within 12 months of signing the funding agreement;
- the Applicant's history in managing grant funding (if any), which provides confidence that the grant will be expended according to the grant agreement; and
- risks associated with project delivery and ongoing management.

A competitive application will include the following documents to support its claim, noting that documentation should be commensurate with the size, scope and nature of the project:



For Grant requests \$1 million or less	For Grant requests over \$1 million
Audited Financial Statements for two of the three most recent consecutive years signed by a qualified auditor	Audited Financial Statements for two of the three most recent consecutive years signed by a qualified auditor
Project Management Plan or similar document which includes scope, implementation methodology, timeframes and costings	Project Management Plan which includes scope, implementation methodology, timeframes and costings
A document identifying the risks associated with the project and proposed mitigation strategies	Risk Management Plan
Business Case or similar document	Business Case
A document describing arrangements to procure major items.	Procurement Plan
Evidence that the asset will be maintained in a viable and operational state for one year for projects with funding of less than \$250,000 and three years for projects with funding from \$250,000 to \$1 million	Asset Maintenance/Management Plan which includes evidence of how the asset will be maintained in a viable and operational state for at least five years
Evidence to demonstrate the Applicant's capacity to deliver the project (not-for-profit organisations only)	Evidence to demonstrate the Applicant's experience in or capacity to deliver projects of a similar size and scope or evidence that the applicant will engage the relevant skills and experience.

6. Decisions

6.1. Advice from external parties

The Department may request advice on applications from state and territory government agencies, other Australian Government agencies, independent experts and other external parties.


Advice may be requested on, but not limited to, the history of the Applicant in delivering projects, viability of the project and Applicant, the extent to which the project aligns with or delivers priorities in state and territory plans, confirmation of funding contributions and impact of the project on the region.

6.2. Value with relevant money

Value with relevant money is achieved when the processes, actions and behaviours employed by the Australian Government and Grant Recipients result in public resources being used in an efficient, effective, economical and ethical manner. Public resources is defined in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* as 'relevant money, relevant property, or appropriations'.

The NSRF seeks to promote value with relevant money by selecting for funding, those projects that:

- have met all of the eligibility requirements;
- have demonstrated the greatest relative merit in terms of the assessment criteria;
- involve a reasonable (rather than excessive) cost having regard to the quality and quantity of deliverables that are proposed; and
- have a risk profile that is acceptable to the Australian Government, with any identified risks able to be efficiently and effectively managed.



Value with relevant money will also be considered on an ongoing basis during and after the delivery of the project. This includes by ensuring that Australian Government funding is expended and acquitted in accordance with contracted requirements and all other conditions of funding are met. Monitoring and evaluating the extent to which a funded project achieves its objectives and contributes to the outcomes of the NSRF is also a consideration.

6.3. Decisions on projects to be funded

For Round Three \$25 million will be quarantined for those projects assessed as being value with relevant money which are seeking funding of \$1 million or less.

Following an appraisal of the eligible applications, the Department provides advice to the Ministerial Panel on the individual and relative merits of each application and whether, based on its analysis, funding the project would be a proper use of public resources. Copies of the application, supporting documents, outcomes of the Department's appraisal and any other information which the Department considers relevant will also be provided to the Ministerial Panel.

The Ministerial Panel will consider the advice of the Department and supporting information, and make decisions on projects to be funded in consultation with the National Infrastructure Committee of Cabinet.

In addition to the application, supporting material and outcomes of the Department's appraisal, the Ministerial Panel and the National Infrastructure Committee of Cabinet may take other factors into account when making decisions on projects to be funded, including, but not limited to:

- the regional reach of the programme;
- the regional reach of the project;
- other similar existing or planned infrastructure in the region to ensure that there is genuine demand and/or no duplication of facilities or services;
- other infrastructure or planned infrastructure projects in the region, and the extent to which the proposed project supports or builds on those projects and the services that they offer;
- the level of funding already allocated to an Applicant in previous rounds of NSRF;
- the geographical distribution of funding in this and previous rounds of NSRF;
- the likelihood of the project proceeding without NSRF funding; and
- the Australian Government's priorities.

The Ministerial Panel may require additional conditions and management strategies be attached to the grant funding based on its own knowledge, the outcomes of the assessment and the risk analysis. It may also offer a different amount of grant funding to that requested by the Applicant.

6.4. Advice to the Applicant

Funding approvals will be announced by the Australian Government. Funding approvals will also be listed on the Department's website.

Applicants will be advised in writing of the funding decision. Letters to successful Applicants will detail any specific conditions attached to the funding.

The Department will offer feedback to all Applicants.

7. Conditions of funding

7.1. Contractual arrangements

Applicants that have been selected to receive grant funding will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Department. The grant agreement states the obligations of the Grant Recipient and of the Department. Grant Recipients are advised to be aware of the obligations and requirements set out in the grant agreement, and should seek legal advice where needed. A template of the grant agreement is available on the Department's website at www.infrastructure.gov.au/nsrf.

The grant agreement will set out:

- any specific conditions attached to the funding approval as a result of the appraisal process or further considerations by the Ministerial Panel. These will be identified in the offer of funding or during agreement negotiations;
- arrangements to report on the progress of the project and acquit the expenditure of funding;
- branding and recognition requirements; and
- arrangements to manage the delivery of the project, including reporting requirements and site visits conducted by the Department or its representatives.

The Grant Recipient should not make financial commitments for funded activities based on the approval of funding or public announcements. Financial commitments entered into before a grant agreement has been executed with the Department are done so at the risk of the Grant Recipient.

7.2. Building Code 2013 and OHS Accreditation Scheme Compliance

Project funding specifically relating to building and construction activity, as defined in the Building Code 2013, <http://www.fwbc.gov.au/building-code>, as amended from time to time, must comply with the Building Code 2013 subject to any threshold requirements. Construction activity must be undertaken by an accredited builder as specified under the Australian Government Building and Construction OHS Accreditation Scheme, <http://www.fsc.gov.au/sites/fsc/needaccredited/accreditationscheme/pages/theaccreditationscheme>.

7.3. Evaluation

A Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy forms part of the Department's programme delivery arrangements, and will assess the extent to which the NSRF is achieving its policy objective and provide valuable input to the development of future programmes.

Key inputs to the evaluation include:

- questions in the application form;
- requests for data in the negotiation of the grant agreement; and
- the delivery of milestones during and following completion of the project.

Grant Recipients are required to provide information, as requested, to support the collection of baseline data and inform the evaluation of the NSRF.

8. Payment of Funding

8.1. Payment arrangements

Payments will be made on achievement of agreed milestones. Before any payment can be made, Grant Recipients will be required to provide:

- a tax invoice for the amount of the payment; and
- evidence of meeting the requirements for payment, as stipulated in the grant agreement.

8.2. GST and tax implications

It is recommended that Grant Recipients seek guidance about the implications of receiving NSRF funding from a tax advisor or the Australian Taxation Office at www.ato.gov.au prior to submitting an application.

In accordance with the terms of Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2, payments made by a government related entity to another government related entity do not attract GST. Payments to other entities may attract GST.

9. Probity

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that the process for providing funding from the NSRF is transparent and in accordance with published Guidelines. The Guidelines may be varied from time-to-time by the Australian Government, as needed or to reflect its priorities. Amended Guidelines will be published on the Department's website.

9.1. Conflict of interest

Each Applicant will be required to declare, as part of its application, existing conflicts of interest or confirm that, to the best of its knowledge, there is no conflict of interest that would impact on or prevent it from entering into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia (as represented by the Department).

Where an Applicant subsequently identifies an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest in relation to the application for funding, the Applicant must inform the Department in writing immediately.

Department employees will manage any conflict of interest in accordance with the Department's Accountable Authority Instruction for probity.

Further information on conflicts of interest is included in the grant agreement.

9.2. Confidential information

Information submitted by the Applicant may be provided to other organisations for the purposes of eligibility and project proposal appraisal.

Applicants should identify any information submitted which they wish to be considered as confidential, supported by reasons for the request. The Australian Government reserves the right to accept or refuse a request to treat information as confidential.

The Privacy Act 1988 applies to the handling of personal information about individuals obtained in the course of the delivery of the NSRF.

Grant Recipients must not act or engage in any practice which, if done or engaged in by the Commonwealth, would constitute a breach of an Information Privacy Principle contained at Section 14 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

10. Contact Details

Questions about the NSRF can be emailed to nsrf@infrastructure.gov.au. Questions should be clear and concise. Recurring questions not addressed in the Guidelines will be added to a Frequently Asked Questions document and placed on the Department's website.

Any enquires relating funding decisions or complaints should be directed to:

General Manager
Regional Programmes Branch
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601
E: nsrf@infrastructure.gov.au

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDA) may provide assistance with preparing applications, supporting documents and evidence. Contact details for RDA Committees can be found at www.rda.gov.au.

11. Attachments

- A: Eligible Applicants
- B: Definition and List of remote and very remote locations

Attachment A

Eligible Applicants

Local Government Bodies

A *local governing body* is defined by the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) as either:

- a) a local governing body established by or under a law of a State, other than a body whose sole or principal function is to provide a particular service, such as the supply of electricity or water ('State' in the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cwlth) includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory); or
- b) a body declared by the Minister, on the advice of the relevant State Minister, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to be a local governing body for the purposes of this Act.

In addition, for the purposes of the NSRF, the following organisations will be considered local governing bodies:

- Five Indigenous local governing bodies in South Australia (Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Maralinga, Gerard, Nepabunna and Yalata);
- The Outback Communities Authority, formerly the Outback Areas Community Development Trust, in South Australia;
- The Trust Account in the Northern Territory;
- The Silverton and Tibooburra villages in New South Wales;
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Shire Council;
- The Shire of Christmas Island;
- Norfolk Island Administration; and
- Lord Howe Island governed by New South Wales.

ACT Government is an eligible applicant for the purposes of NSRF.

Not-for-profit organisations

- A not-for-profit organisation is an organisation that is not operating for the profit or gain of its individual members, whether these gains would have been direct or indirect. This applies both while the organisation is operating and when it winds up.
- The Department would accept that an organisation is a not-for-profit where it is:
 - a charity on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) register; or
 - a State or Territory Incorporated Association; or
 - its constitution or governing documents contain acceptable clauses demonstrating the not-for-profit character of the organisation which prevent it from distributing profits or assets for the benefit of particular people.
- For the purposes of NSRF, not-for-profit organisations must also be a legal entity with a current Australian Business Number (ABN).

Attachment B

Definition and List of Remote and Very Remote Locations

The criteria for the Remoteness Classes is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Remoteness Structure under the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. The criteria for Remoteness are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) developed in 2000 by the then Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) and the National Key Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA). The approach is based on road distance measurements from over 12,000 populated localities to the nearest Service Centres in five categories based on population size.

- **Remote:** is defined as 'Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53'. This class includes towns such as Alice Springs, Mount Isa and Esperance, see full listing below.
- **Very remote:** is defined as 'Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) with an average ARIA+ index value greater than 10.53'. This class includes much of Central and Western Australia and includes towns such as Tennant Creek, Longreach and Coober Pedy, see full listing below.

In addition, for the purposes of the NSRF, the following locations will be considered remote or very remote locations:

- Norfolk Island

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Remote and Very Remote)					
Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Amata (L)	Very Remote Australia	467	Lameroo (L)	Remote Australia	537
American River (L)	Remote Australia	216	Leigh Creek (L)	Very Remote Australia	505
Andamooka Opal Fields (L)	Very Remote Australia	592	Mimili (L)	Very Remote Australia	281
Arno Bay (L)	Remote Australia	227	Penneshaw (L)	Remote Australia	276
Boston (L)	Remote Australia	337	Pinnaroo (L)	Remote Australia	558
Ceduna	Very Remote Australia	2289	Point Turton (L)	Remote Australia	245
Cleve (L)	Remote Australia	754	Port Lincoln	Remote Australia	14088
Coffin Bay (L)	Remote Australia	615	Pukatja (Ernabella) (L)	Very Remote Australia	504
Coober Pedy	Very Remote Australia	1584	Roxby Downs	Remote Australia	4702
Coobowie (L)	Remote Australia	220	Stansbury (L)	Remote Australia	543
Cowell (L)	Remote Australia	942	Streaky Bay	Remote Australia	1005
Cummins (L)	Remote Australia	719	Tumby Bay	Remote Australia	1474
Edithburgh (L)	Remote Australia	466	Warooka (L)	Remote Australia	198
Elliston (L)	Very Remote Australia	292	Woomera (L)	Very Remote Australia	216
Indulkana (L)	Very Remote Australia	310	Wudinna (L)	Very Remote Australia	557
Kimba (L)	Remote Australia	670	Yalata (L)	Very Remote Australia	294
Kingscote	Remote Australia	1763	Yorketown (L)	Remote Australia	680

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (Remote and Very Remote)					
Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
None					

VICTORIA (Remote and Very Remote)					
Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
None					

QUEENSLAND (Remote and Very Remote)					
Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Alpha (L)	Very Remote Australia	349	Mabuiag Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	260
Amity Point (L)	Remote Australia	348	Mapoon (L)	Very Remote Australia	263
Aramac (L)	Very Remote Australia	299	Mer (Murray) Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	365
Augathella (L)	Very Remote Australia	329	Middlemount	Remote Australia	1914
Aurukun	Very Remote Australia	1288	Mitchell (L)	Very Remote Australia	911
Badu Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	784	Mount Garnet (L)	Remote Australia	245
Bamaga	Very Remote Australia	1044	Mount Isa	Remote Australia	20570
Barcaldine	Very Remote Australia	1316	Napranum (L)	Very Remote Australia	852
Blackall (L)	Very Remote Australia	1218	Nebo (L)	Remote Australia	459
Boigu Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	208	New Mapoon (L)	Very Remote Australia	274
Boulia (L)	Very Remote Australia	231	Normanton (L)	Very Remote Australia	1214
Burketow n (L)	Very Remote Australia	202	Palm Island	Remote Australia	2336
Camow eal (L)	Very Remote Australia	187	Point Lookout (L)	Remote Australia	677
Capella (L)	Remote Australia	926	Pompuraaw (L)	Very Remote Australia	662
Cardw ell	Remote Australia	1176	Quilpie (L)	Very Remote Australia	574
Charleville	Very Remote Australia	3318	Richmond (L) (Qld)	Very Remote Australia	522
Chillagoe (L)	Very Remote Australia	192	Rubyvale (L)	Remote Australia	557
Clermont	Remote Australia	2177	Saibai Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	480
Cloncurry	Remote Australia	2313	Sapphire (L)	Remote Australia	623
Coen (L)	Very Remote Australia	311	Scottville (L)	Remote Australia	344
Collinsville	Remote Australia	1501	Seisia (L)	Very Remote Australia	203
Cooktow n	Remote Australia	1617	Springsure (L)	Remote Australia	839
Cunnamulla	Very Remote Australia	1194	St George	Remote Australia	2647
Dirrnanbandi (L)	Very Remote Australia	444	St Pauls (L)	Very Remote Australia	258
Doomadgee	Very Remote Australia	1258	Surat (L)	Remote Australia	426
Duarina (L)	Remote Australia	260	Tambo (L)	Very Remote Australia	354
Erub (Darnley) Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	376	Taroom (L)	Remote Australia	585
Georgetow n (L)	Very Remote Australia	243	Taylors Beach (L)	Remote Australia	351
Gununa	Very Remote Australia	1126	Thargomindah (L)	Very Remote Australia	206
Halifax (L)	Remote Australia	431	Thursday Island	Very Remote Australia	2610
Hamilton Island	Remote Australia	1208	Tieri	Remote Australia	1486
Hammond Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	225	Trebonne (L)	Remote Australia	319
Hideaw ay Bay - Dingo Beach (L)	Remote Australia	420	Tully Heads (L)	Remote Australia	438
Hope Vale (L)	Remote Australia	974	Umagico (L)	Very Remote Australia	281
Horn Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	539	Wallumbilla (L)	Remote Australia	262
Hughenden (L)	Very Remote Australia	1151	Wandoan (L)	Remote Australia	330
Iama (Yam) Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	315	Warraber Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	250
Injinoo (L)	Very Remote Australia	468	Weipa	Very Remote Australia	3334
Injune (L)	Very Remote Australia	398	Willow s Gemfields (L)	Remote Australia	108
Julia Creek (L)	Very Remote Australia	351	Winton (L)	Very Remote Australia	954
Karumba (L)	Very Remote Australia	586	Woorabinda (L)	Remote Australia	936
Kow anyama	Very Remote Australia	1031	Wujal Wujal (L)	Remote Australia	270
Lockhart River (L)	Very Remote Australia	463	Yorke Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	238
Longreach	Very Remote Australia	3137	Yuleba (L)	Remote Australia	212
Lucinda (L)	Remote Australia	450			

NEW SOUTH WALES (Remote and Very Remote)					
Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Baradine (L)	Remote Australia	762	Lake Cargelligo	Remote Australia	1154
Bourke	Very Remote Australia	2047	Lightning Ridge	Remote Australia	1496
Brew arrina (L)	Very Remote Australia	923	Lord How e Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	360
Cobar	Remote Australia	3817	Menindee (L)	Very Remote Australia	449
Collarenebri (L)	Remote Australia	386	Mungindi (NSW Part) (L)	Remote Australia	485
Coonamble	Remote Australia	2446	Nyngan	Remote Australia	2073
Goodooga (L)	Very Remote Australia	216	Tottenham (L)	Remote Australia	299
Hillston (L)	Remote Australia	996	Walgett	Remote Australia	1625
Ivanhoe (L)	Very Remote Australia	200	Wilcannia (L)	Very Remote Australia	604

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Remote and Very Remote)

Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Balgo (L)	Very Remote Australia	508	Lake Grace (L)	Remote Australia	499
Bardi (One Arm Point) (L)	Very Remote Australia	334	Laverton (L)	Very Remote Australia	417
Bayulu (L)	Very Remote Australia	320	Leeman (L)	Remote Australia	356
Beagle Bay (L)	Very Remote Australia	285	Leinster (L)	Very Remote Australia	714
Bidyadanga (Lagrange) (L)	Very Remote Australia	595	Leonora (L)	Very Remote Australia	779
Bremer Bay (L)	Remote Australia	209	Looma (L)	Very Remote Australia	374
Broome	Remote Australia	12766	Marble Bar (L)	Very Remote Australia	208
Bruce Rock (L)	Remote Australia	547	Meekatharra (L)	Very Remote Australia	734
Carnamah (L)	Remote Australia	288	Mindibungu (L)	Very Remote Australia	257
Carnarvon	Remote Australia	4559	Morawa (L)	Remote Australia	655
Coolgardie (L)	Very Remote Australia	954	Mount Magnet (L)	Very Remote Australia	532
Coral Bay (L)	Very Remote Australia	255	Mukinbudin (L)	Remote Australia	241
Corrigin (L)	Remote Australia	649	Mullewa (L)	Remote Australia	358
Cue (L)	Very Remote Australia	228	Narembeen (L)	Remote Australia	460
Dalwallinu (L)	Remote Australia	566	Newman	Very Remote Australia	5478
Dampier	Remote Australia	1341	Norseman (L)	Very Remote Australia	777
Denham (L)	Very Remote Australia	636	Nullagine (L)	Very Remote Australia	178
Derby	Very Remote Australia	3261	Onslow (L)	Very Remote Australia	667
Djarindjin - Lombadina (L)	Very Remote Australia	245	Pannawonica (L)	Very Remote Australia	651
Esperance	Remote Australia	9919	Papulakutja (L)	Very Remote Australia	187
Exmouth	Very Remote Australia	2207	Paraburdoo	Very Remote Australia	1509
Fitzroy Crossing	Very Remote Australia	1144	Point Samson (L)	Remote Australia	298
Gnowangerup (L)	Remote Australia	599	Port Hedland	Remote Australia	13772
Green Head (L)	Remote Australia	256	Ravensthorpe (L)	Very Remote Australia	390
Halls Creek (L)	Very Remote Australia	1443	Roebourne (L)	Remote Australia	813
Hopetoun (L) (WA)	Very Remote Australia	786	Rottnest Island (L)	Remote Australia	114
Jerramungup (L)	Remote Australia	269	Southern Cross (L)	Remote Australia	762
Jigalong (L)	Very Remote Australia	357	Three Springs (L)	Remote Australia	391
Kalbarri	Remote Australia	1277	Tjuntjuntjara (L)	Very Remote Australia	205
Kalumburu (L)	Very Remote Australia	467	Tom Price	Very Remote Australia	3134
Karratha	Remote Australia	16475	Warburton (L)	Very Remote Australia	474
Kiwirrkurra (L)	Very Remote Australia	216	Warmun (L)	Very Remote Australia	297
Kondinin (L)	Remote Australia	281	Wickham	Remote Australia	1651
Koorda (L)	Remote Australia	268	Wiluna (L)	Very Remote Australia	291
Kulin (L)	Remote Australia	330	Wyndham (L)	Very Remote Australia	787
Kununurra	Remote Australia	4573	Yungngora (L)	Very Remote Australia	283

TASMANIA (Remote and Very Remote)

Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Bicheno (L)	Remote Australia	647	Strahan (L)	Remote Australia	660
Currie (L)	Very Remote Australia	687	Swansea (L)	Remote Australia	597
Queenstown	Remote Australia	1975	Tullah (L)	Remote Australia	192
Rosebery (L)	Remote Australia	922	Zeehan (L)	Remote Australia	728

OTHER TERRITORIES

Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Flying Fish Cove	Very Remote Australia	1346	West Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	134
Home Island (L)	Very Remote Australia	419			

NORTHERN TERRITORY (Remote and Very Remote)

Locality	Remoteness	Population	Locality	Remoteness	Population
Adelaide River (L)	Remote Australia	237	Minyeri (L)	Very Remote Australia	484
Ali Curung (L)	Very Remote Australia	535	Minjilang (L)	Very Remote Australia	309
Alice Springs	Remote Australia	24208	Mutitjulu (L)	Very Remote Australia	296
Alpurrurulam (L)	Very Remote Australia	441	Nauyru Nambiyu (Daly River)	Very Remote Australia	454
Alyangula (L)	Very Remote Australia	986	Nganmarriyanga (Palumpa) (L)	Very Remote Australia	377
Amoonguna (L)	Remote Australia	275	Ngukurr	Very Remote Australia	1056
Ampilatwatja (L)	Very Remote Australia	365	Nhulunbuy	Very Remote Australia	3933
Angurugu (L)	Very Remote Australia	835	Numbulwar (L)	Very Remote Australia	687
Areyonga (L)	Very Remote Australia	235	Nyirripi (L)	Very Remote Australia	210
Barunga (L)	Very Remote Australia	313	Papunya (L)	Very Remote Australia	418
Batchelor (L)	Remote Australia	336	Pine Creek (L)	Remote Australia	380
Binjari (L)	Remote Australia	238	Pirlangimpi (L)	Very Remote Australia	371
Borroloola (L)	Very Remote Australia	926	Ramingining (L)	Very Remote Australia	833
Bulman - Weemol (L)	Very Remote Australia	291	Robinson River (Mungoorbac)	Very Remote Australia	258
Canteen Creek (L)	Very Remote Australia	217	Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Purte)	Remote Australia	555
Daguragu - Kalkarindji (L)	Very Remote Australia	542	Tennant Creek	Very Remote Australia	3062
Elliott (L)	Very Remote Australia	348	Titjikala (L)	Remote Australia	201
Galiwinku	Very Remote Australia	2124	Umbakumba (L)	Very Remote Australia	441
Gapuwiyak (L)	Very Remote Australia	874	Wadeye	Very Remote Australia	2112
Gunbalanya (Oenpelli)	Very Remote Australia	1171	Wagait Beach - Mandorah (L)	Remote Australia	368
Hermannsburg (L)	Very Remote Australia	625	Walungurru (Kintore) (L)	Very Remote Australia	454
Ilparpa (L)	Remote Australia	433	Warruwi (L)	Very Remote Australia	423
Jabiru (L)	Remote Australia	1129	Willowra (L)	Very Remote Australia	221
Jilkminggan (L)	Very Remote Australia	280	Wugular (Beswick) (L)	Very Remote Australia	511
Kaltukatjara (Docker River) (L)	Very Remote Australia	295	Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu)	Remote Australia	1527
Katherine	Remote Australia	6094	Wutunugurra (L)	Very Remote Australia	207
Lajamanu (L)	Very Remote Australia	656	Yarralin (L)	Very Remote Australia	266
Laramba (L)	Very Remote Australia	251	Yirrkala (L)	Very Remote Australia	843
Maningrida	Very Remote Australia	2293	Yuelamu (L)	Very Remote Australia	207
Mataranka (L)	Very Remote Australia	244	Yuendumu (L)	Very Remote Australia	687
Milikapiti (L)	Very Remote Australia	447	Yulara (L)	Very Remote Australia	888
Milingimbi	Very Remote Australia	1081			

Source: ABS Urban Centres and Localities 2011 to Remoteness Areas 201, 1 1270.0.55.006 - Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Correspondences, July 2011

Population data source: ABS Census of population and housing 2011, Basic Community profile, Urban Centres and Localities.

