



## Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Extension – Frequently Asked Questions

You can find the answers to some frequently asked questions about the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Extension (LRCI Program Extension) in this fact sheet.

Detailed information on the LRCI Program Extension can be found in the COVID-19 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Extension Guidelines (Program Extension Guidelines) available on the Department's website at [www.investment.infrastructure.gov.au/lrci](http://www.investment.infrastructure.gov.au/lrci).

### What projects are eligible for funding?

Councils can choose which projects to nominate for funding under the LRCI Program Extension, according to priorities for the local community.

Similar to the LRCI Program, the Department will assess nominated projects against the eligibility requirements in the Program Extension Guidelines.

Projects will be approved as long as all eligibility requirements are met. Eligible projects will be included on an Approved Work Schedule.

### When do Project Nomination forms need to be submitted?

Councils can submit Project Nomination forms with their signed Grant Agreement, or at any time afterwards.

While there is no deadline for submitting Project Nomination forms, the sooner Project Nominations are submitted, the sooner the Department can assess and approve projects.

### How do I submit a Project Nomination form?

You are required to submit completed Project Nomination forms by email to [IIP@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:IIP@infrastructure.gov.au).

Councils are not able to submit Project Nomination forms via the Infrastructure Management System Portal that is used by the Roads to Recovery Program.

### When do projects need to be completed?

Construction activity on Eligible Projects must be undertaken before 31 December 2021, unless agreed by the Department due to exceptional circumstances. Planning issues and general delays associated with building projects are not considered exceptional circumstances.

If construction activity cannot be completed or savings related to Eligible Projects have not been reallocated under their LRCI Program Extension Funding Allocation before 31 December 2021, an Eligible Funding Recipient may not receive their full Funding Allocation.

## Can I use LRCI Program Extension funds to purchase land, buildings or machinery?

LRCI Program Extension funds cannot be used to purchase land, buildings or machinery, even if this would support the future delivery of an eligible grant activity. This is due to the fact that the Program seeks to protect and create local short-term employment opportunities through funded projects. The purchase of land, buildings or machinery would not deliver this intended outcome.

To be eligible for funding, local road projects must involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments.

To be eligible for funding, community infrastructure projects must involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public. Projects can involve state, territory, crown or Commonwealth owned land/assets if permission has been obtained from the land or asset owner to undertake the project, and all other eligible project requirements are met.

## What are the accessibility requirements for Community Infrastructure Projects?

Community Infrastructure Projects must be generally accessible to the public, meaning that the project, or the amenity provided by the project, is generally accessible to the public at large. Some areas are clearly publicly accessible as they are areas that are open to all members of the public such as parks, playgrounds, footpaths and roads.

Projects will also be considered generally publically accessible if they are in a location that is:

- generally publically accessible to the wider public undertaking a specific activity (for example council operated sporting fields); or
- generally publically accessible for a limited age group of the Community as a whole i.e. a kindergarten building; or
- used for the provision of an essential service or community service, as determined by the Department, and the amenity of the asset is publicly accessible and benefits the community.

## What is considered to be an additional project for the purposes of the Eligible Project Requirements?

Given the timing of funding under LRCI Program Extension and taking into account that Eligible Funding Recipients may not yet have confirmed future infrastructure spending, the additionality principle has been modified for LRCI Program Extension only. The Australian Government expects that Eligible Funding Recipients will maintain their overall capital spending on roads and community infrastructure, funded by their own revenue, at or above their 2020-21 capital spending level.

Where previously LRCI Program funds could not be used on existing projects, this focus on overall capital spending provides Eligible Funding Recipients with greater flexibility to set and deliver the infrastructure priorities in their communities.

Proof of maintaining capital expenditure will be a requirement for an Eligible Funding Recipient to receive their full LRCI Program Extension Funding Allocation. The Department will consider, in exceptional circumstances, exemptions to this requirement.

## Would a project be eligible for funding under the LRCI Program Extension if it has received funding under state government/other Australian Government programs?

As with the LRCI Program, a project can be funded by a combination of LRCI Program funds and other government programs (including state government programs), as long as the combined funding for the project does not exceed the estimated cost of a project.

You will, however, need to maintain your overall capital spending on roads and community infrastructure, funded by your own revenue, at or above your 2020-21 capital spending level.

You need to ensure that you are also meeting the conditions associated with the other funding sources (i.e. a state program) if you intend to use LRCI Program Extension funding towards a project. It is your responsibility to determine if the funding conditions of another program would not permit your use of LRCI Program Extension funding towards a project, for example, by consulting with the administrators of the other program.

## Can I commence a project before the Department advises that my Project Nomination has been approved?

The Department understands that Councils wish to commence projects as soon as possible. As per the Program Guidelines, the Department must approve all projects on a Council's Work Schedule, confirming the projects have met eligibility requirements.

If you commence a project before it has been approved by the Department, you risk commencing a project that is not eligible for funding under the LRCI Program Extension. In this case, you would be responsible for meeting all incurred costs.

## How do I estimate the number of full-time equivalent jobs supported by a project?

A full-time employee is defined as working 75 hours per fortnight.

You need to calculate the estimated number of full-time employees that will be working on the project for the duration of the construction period. This is typically people who are directly working on the project, and not staff providing general administrative support. For contractors or part-time employees, you will need to convert part-time hours to full-time equivalent (FTE).

For example:

Five workers will be working on a project.

Three of these workers will be employed full-time, working 75 hours per fortnight.

Two workers will be employed part-time, working 20 hours per fortnight.

To determine FTE of part-time workers:  $2 * (20/75) = 0.53$  FTE

So total FTE = 3 FTE (full time workers) + 0.53 FTE

= 3.53 FTE