Australian Government

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

Administrative arrangements for Bridges Renewal Program and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program projects from 1 July 2024

Fact sheet

Overview

The Australian Government announced that from 1 July 2024, the Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP) would be merged to create the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP). SLRIP is an application-based merit assessed program allowing state and territory governments and local government authorities (LGAs) the flexibility to apply for project funding to address current and emerging priorities in road infrastructure needs.

What does it mean for proponents?

Existing approved BRP and HVSPP projects will continue to be managed in accordance with the guidelines and funding agreement under which they were approved until they are completed. Proponents will continue to work with the departmental project officer managing their BRP and HVSPP project(s).

Streamlining reporting requirements

One immediate change to ease the administrative burden is that BRP and HVSPP projects will move to quarterly reporting from August 2024 in line with the SLRIP. LGAs will continue to report through their state and territory government agencies or directly with the Department if required. A new reporting template will be provided by the Department which will be similar to the monthly reporting template that proponents currently use.

> **If you have any questions about existing BRP/HVSPP projects, contact the Department at:**
>
> For BRP projects:
> bridgesrenewal@infrastructure.gov.au
>
> For HVSPP projects:
> HVSPP@infrastructure.gov.au

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I continue to seek milestone payments on a monthly basis or will this only be available on a quarterly basis?

The Department will continue to process milestone payments as required on a monthly basis. Payments to LGAs will continue to be made through state and territory governments. Proponents will still be required to submit Milestone Claim Forms with evidence to support the payment.

Do I still need to submit a separate form for each milestone claim?

Proponents must continue to submit a Milestone Claim Form for each payment which can be downloaded from the Department's website. The requirement is separate from the quarterly report.

Can I move current milestones for a project to align with the quarterly reporting process?

Yes, proponents will be able to align milestones with the quarterly reporting process if it aligns with milestone achievement and if appropriate evidence is available to support the payment. All changes to milestone timeframes should be agreed with the Department.

Will project variations still be possible for BRP and HVSPP projects under the SLRIP?

As per the relevant guidelines a project was approved under, project variations must be sought as soon as practicable using the Project Variation Form which can be downloaded from the Department's website. Variations can be requested to change the scope, budget or timeframe of a project. Project variations must be approved prior to actioning any change to the scope, cost and scheduling of a project. Variations will be considered on a case by case basis by the Department.

What can I do if a BRP or HVSPP project is over budget?

Where there are cost overruns on a project, the proponent needs to notify the Department and investigate other options to meet the cost increase for the project before seeking a funding increase. Variations will be considered on a case by case basis by the Department and in accordance with program guidelines.

Requests for project variations must be submitted using the Department's Project Variation Form. Increases in funding must be approved by the Minister or their delegate and funding is now taken from the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program.

What happens if a project delivery timeframe is outside the timelines of the guidelines under which it has been approved?

Proponents need to contact the Department to discuss any variations to the timelines set out in the Funding Agreement for that project. Requests for schedule variations will be considered on case by case basis by the Department.

What do I do if I need to cancel or withdraw a BRP or HVSPP project?

Proponents may request to withdraw or cancel a project. Prior to submitting a request, proponents should contact the Department to discuss the matter. Requests can be made using the Department's Project Withdrawal Form which can be downloaded from the Department's website. The Department may request the withdrawal or cancellation of a project under specific circumstances, and will contact the proponent to discuss.

Can I still submit a re-application for additional funding for a BRP or HVSPP project?

No. As the BRP and HVSPP have merged into the SLRIP, the Department will no longer accept re-applications for additional funding for existing projects, in line with the new arrangements under SLRIP. Please contact the Department to discuss other options.

Should I still refer to BRP and HVSPP projects in the media under the program that they were approved?

Now that the BRP and HVSPP programs have been merged into the SLRIP, all projects should be referred to as being delivered under the SLRIP.

Administratively, the Department will manage these projects according to the guidelines they were approved under and the agreed funding agreement which will refer to BRP and HVSPP.

Can I still apply for funding for bridge and heavy vehicle related projects under the SLRIP?

Yes. The SLRIP has merged the BRP and HVSPP, and will continue to fund projects to upgrade and replace bridges and road projects related to improving heavy vehicle productivity, as well additional new focus areas.

Will there be any changes to Heavy Vehicle Rest Area (HVRA) initiative projects?

The HVRA now sits under the SLRIP with its own focus area. There will be no change to existing HVRA projects apart from moving to quarterly reporting in line with the SLRIP.