Australian Government

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

Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP)

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2025

The application process

How do I submit my application?

All applications must be submitted through the department's [online portal](#) unless otherwise advised by the Department.

Is there a requirement to consult with the department before lodging an application?

No, there is no requirement for proponents to consult with the department prior to lodging an application. If a proponent has any questions they can contact the department by emailing slrip-applications@infrastructure.gov.au.

What documents do I need to provide with my application?

Applications must include a fully completed application form addressing all criteria required for either a SLRIP or Heavy Vehicle Rest Area initiative (HVRA) application, supporting evidence that will assist with the assessment of the application, and mandatory evidence demonstrating that co-contribution funding has been secured for the project.

Why is it a requirement to have funding secured prior to submitting the application?

All projects approved under SLRIP or HVRA require a co-contribution from the proponent and/or other source. Co-contribution funding must be secured prior to submitting the application to ensure that projects approved by the Minister are ready to commence according to timeframes set out in the application and to avoid project delays.

What type of supporting documentation can I submit with my application?

Examples of evidence include a structural report of the asset, detailed risk assessment, preliminary design for construction, project plan, road safety audit and consultation summaries with impacted stakeholders.

Why do I need to provide evidence to support the application?

Providing evidence to support the application validates the responses, ensures the accuracy of the information provided and enables a thorough merit assessment to be made.

What will the department be looking for in an application?

Eligible SLRIP applications will be assessed against three criteria, while HVRA applications will be assessed against four criteria:
- Strategic Fit
- Project impact and benefits
- Project Deliverability
- Improvement to the Heavy Vehicle Rest Area network across Australia (HVRA only)

The department will consider each application on its merits based on how well it meets the criteria, how it compares to other applications and whether it provides value of relevant money.

Funding

How much Australian Government funding can I seek under the Program?

The Australian Government will contribute up to a maximum of $5 million of funding under SLRIP or HVRA for each project.

For **projects submitted by Local Government Authorities (LGAs)**, the SLRIP/HVRA will contribute up to 80% of the total project cost for projects located in regional and remote areas, and up to 50% of the total project cost for projects located in urban areas, up to the cap of $5 million per project.

For **projects submitted by state and territory governments**, the SLRIP/HVRA will contribute up to 50% of the total project cost, regardless of project location, up to the cap of $5 million per project.

Note that these percentages only apply to the SLRIP/HVRA funding, not other Australian Government funding used as a co-contribution, such as Roads to Recovery funding. Funding previously approved under BRP/HVSPP cannot be used as additional Australian Government funding for a SLRIP project.

Is the funding split for HVRA the same as the SLRIP?

Yes, projects funded under the HVRA and SLRIP will have the same funding splits applied.

Can I use other Australian Government program funding towards my co-contribution?

Yes, funding co-contributions for the SLRIP and HVRA may be sourced from other Australian Government programs, such as Roads to Recovery. If a project is eligible for more than one type of Australian Government funding, it can apply for all relevant funding, but must secure other funding before applying for SLRIP or HVRA. The Australian Government will only fund activities for a project under the SLRIP and HVRA once.

What is considered untied Australian Government funding?

Untied funding is money paid by the Australian Government to States and Territories and LGAs to spend according to local priorities. Proponents can use untied funding if the project meets the eligibility criteria for that funding.

Can I submit more than one application under the SLRIP?

Yes, applicants can apply for multiple projects, using a separate application form for each project. Each project must be whole and complete and not reliant upon other projects, however applicants can indicate if a project is related to another project (for instance if two applications are submitted, which could use the one construction crew to build both projects if both are approved).

How do I know if the location of my project is considered regional or urban?

The definition of regional and urban is taken from the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard](#). Urban projects are those located in Major Cities of Australia and regional projects are those in any of the other remoteness categories (Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote).

Is there a certain percentage of projects that will get allocated to regional councils?

No. The SLRIP and HVRA are application-based and merit-assessed, open to all state and territory governments and LGAs. The SLRIP and HVRA do not allocate percentages of projects based on location.

Are procurement costs for approved SLRIP projects considered as eligible costs?

Tendering costs for approved projects are considered eligible costs under the SLRIP. However, ancillary procurement costs, such as the cost of a probity advisor or for procurement-related travel expenses, are considered ineligible costs.

Please note that proponents must keep financial records for each project and be able to accurately report on costs.

Assessment process

How will my application be assessed?

The department will assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria using the responses provided in the application form and the information, evidence and analysis provided to support each application.

When will applications for each tranche be assessed?

Applications are batched for assessment approximately three times a year.

Who approves applications for funding?

Upon completion of assessment of a tranche of applications, the department will recommend top scoring projects to the Minister for approval, taking into account the program/initiative budgets.

The Minister or their delegate will make the final decision on projects funded under each tranche.

When will I know if my application has been successful?

Following the Minister's decision to approve projects under each tranche, the department will contact all applicants to advise of the outcome of their application/s under the tranche.

Will I be contacted by the department if any further information is required?

The department may contact applicants to clarify information provided in the application, however for probity reasons and to avoid bias, new or additional information will not be considered after the tranche the application has been submitted under has closed.

My project was unsuccessful. Can I resubmit an application?

Yes. Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback on their applications and will have the option to revise and re-submit their application/s under future tranches.

Will there be a reserve list of applications?

No. A reserve list will not be kept as costs for projects can change significantly and confirmation of co-contributions can also change. Applications will need to be revised and re-submitted to be considered under future tranches.

Successful applicants

When must approved project/s be completed?

Construction only projects must be complete within 24 months, and design and construct projects within 36 months, of receiving the funding offer.

In the case of unforeseen factors such as adverse weather events, it may be possible to vary the timeframe for a project to up to three years for a construction only project and up to four years for a design and construct project, noting this must be agreed by the department, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can I commence a project before the department advises that my project has been approved?

For design and construct projects, design may commence prior to approval of a project, however only design work undertaken <u>after</u> approval will be eligible for funding.

Commencing construction for any project prior to signed acceptance of the funding offer will result in the withdrawal of the funding offer or non-payment for costs incurred.

If my project becomes delayed due to factors outside my control, can the project completion date be extended?

The department recognises that unexpected events, such as adverse weather events, may affect delivery of a project. In these circumstances, proponents must advise the department of any risks and request a project variation of the timeframe within four weeks of the time the proponent is made aware of any impacts on the delivery of the approved project. The variation request must also be submitted prior to the completion of the construction of the project to be considered. All variation requests are considered on a case-by-case basis by the department and works must be suspended until the department advises whether the request is approved.

How will funding be provided to local government proponents?

Where projects are led by an LGA, payments will be made through the relevant state/territory government to the relevant LGA. The state/territory government may have additional requirements of the LGA before funding can be paid, such as the provision of an invoice.

Can funding be withdrawn or cancelled at any time of the project?

The department considers the term *withdrawal* to refer to a project which has had no Australian Government funding paid towards it. Conversely, the Department considers the term *cancellation* to refer to a project where Australian Government funding has been paid.

A proponent may request to withdraw a project using the department's Project Withdrawal Form prior to the awarding of a construction contract where:

- cost estimates have significantly exceeded previous estimates
- the parties are unable to agree on a timetable
- there have been significant delays to commencement or completion of the project, or
- there are significant changes required to the scope of a project.

In circumstances where funding has been paid towards a project, the Department will work with the proponent to understand the circumstances of the project and review the eligibility of the costs incurred on a case-by-case basis. This will include an assessment of milestone payments that have been made, with consideration given to whether reimbursement of Australian Government funding is required.

The maximum amount of Australian Government funding contribution for a cancelled project is the amount of the funds already paid or the percentage of the funding contribution already incurred, whichever is the lower amount.

The department may request the withdrawal or cancellation of a project under specific circumstances, and will contact the proponent to discuss this if required.

Does the requirement for public tender for all projects over $100,000 dollars apply to local governments?

Proponents must procure all elements of the project through a competitive process, or seek a tender exemption from the Department's website. If a procurement does not exceed $100,000, a tender exemption is not required.

Under the SLRIP and the HVRA initiative, proponents must comply with the rules and guidelines in their state or territory for the expenditure of public money and the procurement of good and services.

Milestones and reporting

Can I change the funding payable in my milestone schedule?

Proponents may request a different milestone schedule for a project. These requests will be considered by the department on a case by case basis.

I have completed a milestone early, am I able to make a claim for payment before its due date?

If a milestone is met in advance of the due date, where the relevant milestone report and evidence has been provided to the department and it demonstrates that the milestone has been met, the department will seek to make the associated payment as part of the next reporting process.

Will I still be required to report quarterly for projects that have not yet commenced?

Yes, quarterly reporting is required before the project has commenced to ensure the department is made aware of any changes to project timeframes or other aspects of the project as set out in the funding offer.

Can LGAs report directly to the department?

In the Federation Funding Agreement – Infrastructure there is a requirement for LGAs to report through state and territory governments. LGA proponents must report through their relevant State or Territory government, using the department's Reporting Form available at: Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program - Resources | Infrastructure Investment Program

Do we have to report if the co-contribution funding is increased?

If there is material change to a project the proponent must inform the department as soon as practicable, including changes to the funding sources for the project, such as the granting of further funding from other sources or changes to the co-contributor.

What evidence do proponents need to submit for each milestone payment?

Mandatory evidence for milestones can be found under section 5.2 in the guidelines.

What are common reasons applications were unsuccessful in receiving funding?

The SLRIP received a high volume of applications in tranche 1. Unsuccessful applications did not receive funding for a range of reasons including:

- Questions left blank or unanswered in the application form
- Insufficient evidence provided to support claims made in the application
- Insufficient detail regarding the issue the project is addressing, what the project entails, and why the proposal is the most appropriate response to address the issue/s
- Insufficient evidence demonstrating stakeholder engagement
- Insufficient information and evidence of the project's social, economic or environmental benefits
- Insufficient information and evidence to show that the project was well planned
- Project timelines did not fit within the SLRIP guidelines (e.g. project plans)
- Insufficient evidence of secured co-contribution (e.g. letters from CEO or Finance Team, extracts from Council's budget papers which specifically name the project, or confirmation of other funding sources)
- Insufficient mitigations/detail in the risk assessment table.

Applicants planning to apply for funding in future tranches should familiarise themselves with the guidelines and these FAQs which include guidance on the elements taken into account in the merit assessment process when selecting projects to recommend to the Minister for funding.