



Heavy Vehicle Rest Area initiative

January 2026

Truck drivers play an important role in Australia's economy. They travel day and night to get us the goods and services we need, and they need access to rest areas along the way to get there safely. Rest areas can be large flat areas to pull off the road and have a short rest, or may have more amenities like parking for many trucks, toilets, showers, drinking water and shelter. Rest areas are critical for combating driver fatigue, improving road safety and increasing productivity.

The Heavy Vehicle Rest Area (HVRA) initiative aims to improve road safety for heavy vehicle drivers and other road users by funding the construction of new and upgraded rest areas in priority areas across Australia.

The HVRA initiative is part of the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) with its own separate focus area.

Funding is available for projects that upgrade or construct formal rest areas, informal rest areas or rest area signage (including green reflectors).



Who can apply for the HVRA initiative?

Applications can only be made by state, territory or local governments. Projects require co-funding from the applicant or other sources. Applications can be submitted at any time through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts' Reporting and Program Management (RPM) portal <https://rmpportal.infrastructure.gov.au/>.

How much funding is available?

The Australian Government has committed \$140 million to the initiative over 10 years, to 2031-32.

For projects submitted by local governments, the HVRA initiative 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 HVRA initiative will contribute up to 50% of the total project cost for all projects, regardless of project location, up to the cap of \$5 million per project.

How are applications assessed?

Applications are assessed against 4 criteria:

- **Strategic fit** - the rationale for the project, the case for action, how it will achieve the stated objectives, and how it will meet the needs of the community
- **Project impact and benefits** - the social, economic and environmental value of the project
- **Project deliverability** - the capability and capacity to deliver the project, including risk mitigation
- **Improvement to the Heavy Vehicle Rest Area network across Australia** - how it builds the capacity of the rest area network, and how well it meets the needs of truck drivers for the location proposed.

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 for money.

Upon completion of assessments, the department will recommend projects to the Minister or their delegate for approval. The Minister or their delegate make the final decision on projects funded under each tranche.



Share your thoughts on rest areas

We are seeking feedback from heavy vehicle drivers and other road users on which existing rest areas need improvements, and where new rest areas should be built. Complete the survey by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/yuetkjbj>.

Find out more

Program Homepage: <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/SLRIP>

Program Guidelines, FAQs and Supporting Evidence Guidance for SLRIP Applicants:
<https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/resources-funding-recipients/safer-local-roads-and-infrastructure-program-resources>

Email: SLRIP-applications@infrastructure.gov.au for questions related to applying

Email: SLRIP-Projects@infrastructure.gov.au for matters related to approved projects