Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Safer Local Roads Infrastructure Program

Application Guide

September 2026

1. About the Program

The Safer Local Roads Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) provides funding for projects addressing current and emerging priorities in road infrastructure needs, as part of the Australian Government's commitment to improve road safety outcomes under the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30.

It is an ongoing, application-based, merit-assessed, funding program, open to all state and territory governments and Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

Applicants can apply for a maximum of $5 million in Program funding for each eligible project. More detail about project eligibility and co-contribution requirements can be found in the Program Guidelines on the SLRIP Resources webpage.

1.1 About this Guide

This guide helps applicants prepare an application for funding under the SLRIP. It explains the type of information applicants should include, how to support claims with evidence, and how to submit the application through the Reporting and Program Management (RPM) portal.

Applicants should read this guide together with the Program Guidelines, application form and frequently asked questions on the SLRIP Resources webpage.

2. Creating an application in RPM

2.1 Before starting in RPM

Prior to creating an application in the RPM portal, applicants should review the Program Guidelines and consider whether their project meets the Program's eligibility requirements.

RPM is the department's IT portal to be used to submit the application and record key project information. The department only accepts SLRIP applications through RPM.

For access to RPM, applicants need to contact RPMSupport@infrastructure.gov.au to create an account.

Creating a project application in RPM early will help applicants understand and collect the information required well before the closing date. Where relevant, the information entered in RPM should match the application form and supporting documents.

2.2 Creating a project application

To create a project application, applicants must log in to the RPM portal, navigate to ***Project Applications*** and select ***Create a Project Application***.

Project applications created in RPM will remain in draft status until they are submitted.

Applicants can return to their draft applications and update information, upload documents and make changes at any time before submitting each application.

To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted in RPM by the application closing time/date. Applications that remain in draft status will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit early and avoid waiting until the final day to ensure they resolve any technical or submission issues prior to the closing time/date.

2.3 RPM/application submission process

1. Log in to RPM and create a new project application.
2. Enter the project name.
3. Download the application form from the Overview page.
4. Enter the mandatory project information in RPM.
5. Complete the application form.
6. Upload the completed application form and supporting documents to RPM.
7. Review all information for consistency.
8. Submit the project application in RPM.

2.4 Mandatory information in RPM

RPM field	What to enter	Things to check
Project name	Use the naming convention: [organisation name] - [short project scope and location].	Ensure this naming convention is applied. For example: Holiday Hills Shire Council - Design and Upgrade of Taylor Road Bridge, Timberland.
Project function	Select whether the project is design and construction, or construction only.	Make sure this matches the application form and project scope.
Project description	Provide a short, high-level description of what will be delivered.	The project description in RPM should only contain a high-level summary of what is being constructed and should not include any benefits in this section. Note that being overly specific in the project description in RPM can lead to the need for project variations later. For example, it is better to say the project will deliver a road upgrade that is "approximately 2km long" rather than one that is "1.98km."
Project start date	Enter when design or planning is expected to start.	The date can be in the past if planning or design has already started.
Project end date	Enter when the Post Completion Report is expected to be submitted, after completion of construction.	This should be within 3 months after construction is completed.

RPM field	What to enter	Things to check
Construction start date	Enter the expected start date for construction.	This date must be in the future. Projects that have already started construction are ineligible.
Construction end date	Enter the expected completion date for construction.	This should be within 2 years of construction starting.
Funding contribution	Enter all funding sources, including the requested Program contribution and all co-contributions.	Ensure funding amounts are consistent across RPM, the application form and supporting documents. Enter funding source description details as required, for example for other Australian Government contributions or other contributions.
Project location	Provide the project location using the map in RPM or latitude and longitude coordinates.	Check the map location aligns with the project location in the application form and any attached maps or plans.
Supporting documents	Upload the completed application form and all supporting evidence.	Ensure documents are clearly named (e.g. Attachment E – Project Plan) and referenced in the application form where relevant.
Review and submit	Review the RPM entry, then select ***Submit Project Application***.	Confirm all RPM fields, application form and supporting documents are complete before submitting.

For assistance with RPM, applicants can contact RPMSupport@infrastructure.gov.au.

3. Completing an application form

Applications should be clear, concise, complete and supported by evidence.

Applicants should:

- Clearly describe the project, why it is needed, how it aligns with the Program objectives, and how it will be delivered within the proposed budget and timeframes.
- Support claims made in the application with relevant evidence and identify where supporting evidence can be found in any attachments.
- Ensure the amount of detail and supporting evidence provided is relative to the size, complexity and funding sought for the project. Applicants should use evidence readily available to them. If no evidence is available for a claim, applicants should explain why the evidence is not available and the basis of the claim made.
- Provide sufficient information without assuming assessors have prior knowledge of the project, organisation or local context.
- Where submitting more than one application in a tranche, consider their capacity to deliver all proposed projects, including projects submitted under other Australian Government programs, and ensure proposed resourcing and delivery timeframes are realistic.
- Complete all questions in the application form, using N/A where a question does not apply.
- Ensure information entered in the application form and RPM is accurate and consistent with the Program Guidelines.

3.1 Eligibility self-checklist

The eligibility self-checklist helps applicants consider whether their project is suitable for the Program before submitting an application. The department will assess eligibility based on the information provided in the application form, RPM and supporting documents. Only eligible applications proceed to merit assessment.

3.2 Project Summary

The project summary section captures key information about the proposed project, including the project name, project scope, project stream, program objective, location details and any related projects or applications.

There is guidance text within this section of the application form and applicants should read this carefully.

Further guidance on some key questions in this section is below.

Project stream

Projects must fall within one of three project streams. Applicants must select the project stream that best aligns with their project:

- Road construction and upgrades
- Bridge renewal
- Heavy vehicle facilities.

Refer to the Program Guidelines for information on eligible project types under each stream.

Where a project includes works across more than one stream, select the stream that best represents the primary works being delivered.

Program objective

Applicants must select the Program objective that best aligns with the primary purpose of the project:

- Road safety
- Productivity
- Road resilience
- Sustainability.

Applicants are required to explain how their project aligns with their nominated primary Program objective under Criterion 1.

Where a project aligns with more than one program objective, applicants should select the objective the project has the strongest alignment with. Applicants will have the opportunity to explain all the benefits their project will deliver against Criterion 2.

Refer to the 'Program Objectives' section of the Program Guidelines for more information about how each program objective is defined and how to address this section.

3.3 Project Milestones

Applicants are required to select whether their project is a Construction Only project or a Design and Construction project and enter expected delivery dates against the default project milestones:

- Completion of pre-construction design for a design and construction project)
- Commencement of construction
- Completion of construction

- Acceptance of Post Completion Report.

Applicants must ensure these dates match corresponding dates in RPM where applicable. In the event of discrepancies, the dates in the application form will be considered the correct dates.

Milestone dates should reflect realistic delivery timeframes, consistent with the critical path for project delivery and other principles outlined in the Program Guidelines. These dates should also take into account the timeframes for assessment, approval and funding offer processes, also set out in the Program Guidelines.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to negotiate their milestones and related schedule at the project inception meeting.

3.4 Metrics

Applicants are required to complete the metrics tab of the application form, providing information relevant to their proposed project. This includes Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) data and road, bridge and heavy vehicle facilities metrics as applicable, and where available.

Applicants should provide all available metrics relevant to their project, not just those in the corresponding project stream (i.e. if a project submitted under the bridge renewal stream includes the upgrade of a bridge and adjoining road, both bridge and road metrics should be provided).

3.5 Strategic Fit

The response to the Strategic Fit criterion should explain why the project is needed, and how it supports the Program's objectives.

A strong Strategic Fit response will explain the project's rationale in a logical sequence: the current problem and/or opportunity, the users or community affected, the proposed solution, why the solution is the most appropriate, and how the project aligns with the Program's objectives and relevant strategies.

Applicants should:

- Explain how their project aligns with the Program's road safety objective
- Explain how the project aligns with their nominated primary Program objective (it if is one of the objectives other than road safety)
- Explain the problem and/or opportunity, how the proposed works respond to that issue, and why the chosen option is the most appropriate solution.
- Explain the community support for the project and how the project contributes to relevant national, state, territory and local policies, strategies or plans.
    - Claims about community need, stakeholder support or strategic alignment should be supported by evidence where available and referenced in the response, including the attachment name and relevant page or section where appropriate.
- Be specific about local conditions, such as gaps in the road network, safety risks, lack of accessible connections, proximity to schools, public transport and/or employment areas, and community demand.
- Reference relevant evidence in the response, rather than only attaching documents.
    - For example, instead of writing "community consultation has been undertaken", applicants should briefly summarise the consultation and identify where the supporting information can be found, such as "Attachment C, pages 4 to 8, summarises consultation with residents, the school community and local businesses."

Examples of supporting evidence

- road safety audits, assessments or other similar reports

- site conditions report and photos of existing conditions
- relevant strategic plans and/or government/council resolutions
- evidence outlining traffic counts, crash data or detour times
- traffic, crash, freight movement or heavy vehicle volume data
- route freight analysis or similar reports
- maintenance records for related existing infrastructure
- analysis demonstrating the need for the project and the proposed solution
- stakeholder consultation and/or letters of support for the project from residents, other levels of government, emergency services, local business freight operators, peak bodies or other key stakeholders
- National Road Safety Data Hub – for crash and safety statistics
- National Freight Data Hub – for freight volumes and movements
- Geoscience Australia data – for flood and bushfire risk information
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator information – for heavy vehicle facilities.

3.6 Project Benefits and Impact

The response to the Project Benefits and Impact criterion should describe the outcomes the project is expected to deliver once complete and, where relevant, during construction.

A strong response will clearly demonstrate how the project's expected benefits relate to the specific location, users and community need.

Applicants should:

- Explain the expected benefits of the project, who will benefit, and provide evidence-based analysis to demonstrate how those outcomes will be achieved.
- Explain how the identified benefits will be realised and where possible, quantify the expected outcomes.
- Explain the basis for any estimates or assumptions, such as expected users per day, changes in travel behaviour, safety improvements, emissions reductions, employment benefits, productivity enhancements and/or improved outcomes for First Nations people and vulnerable communities.
- Where possible, be specific to the project and location rather than relying on general statements about the benefits of road, bridge or heavy vehicle facility upgrades.
- Claims should be supported by local evidence, or a clear explanation of how the benefit is expected to occur and, where possible, quantified.

Examples of supporting evidence

- economic impact assessments or cost-benefit analysis (CBA)
- productivity studies or analysis (e.g. reduced travel time, freight efficiency)
- employment forecasts or job creation estimates
- analysis of expected benefits or outcomes
- analysis of expected outcomes for First Nations people and/or vulnerable communities
- stakeholder consultation and/or letters of support for the project from residents, other levels of government, emergency services, local business freight operators, peak bodies or other key stakeholders

- environmental assessment or management plans.

3.7 Project Deliverability

The response to the Deliverability criterion is split into three tabs on the application form:

- Project Deliverability
- Project Budget
- Risk.

3.7.1 Project Deliverability

The response provided in this section should show that the applicant has a realistic plan and the capacity and capability to deliver the project within the proposed scope, budget and timeframes.

A strong response will explain what has already been completed, what still needs to occur, and how the applicant will manage delivery. This may include planning approvals, land access, environmental or cultural heritage requirements, utility investigations, procurement steps, contractor availability, governance arrangements and reporting processes.

Applicants should:

- Explain the current stage of planning or design, key delivery milestones, required approvals, procurement approach, governance arrangements, internal and external resourcing, and any dependencies that may affect delivery.
  - While some of these elements may be less developed for design and construction projects, applicants can demonstrate their capacity to deliver by clearly outlining the plan to undertake these steps.
- Detail the skills of those involved in project delivery, including their experience and performance history in delivering other similar projects.
- Outline delivery assumptions and avoid relying on general statements such as “the project will be delivered by council staff.”
  - Where approvals, procurement activities or investigations have not yet commenced or been completed, applicants should explain how this will be conducted in the proposed delivery timeframes.
  - Where internal staff, contractors or delivery partners will be used, the application should explain their role, availability and experience relevant to the project.

3.7.2 Project Budget

Applicants must refer to the Program guidelines for eligible and ineligible expenditure details and use the department’s cost estimation guidance (linked in the application form) when preparing estimates.

Applicants should:

- Ensure project costs entered in the application form, RPM and supporting documentation are consistent.
- Explain how cost estimates were prepared, the level of design or investigation that informed them, and how contingency, escalation and delivery risks have been allowed for.

There is further guidance text within the application form on what to consider when preparing the project budget.

3.7.3 Risk

The Risk section should identify the key risks that may affect project delivery and explain how those risks will be managed. These may include risks relating to approvals, procurement, cost estimates, resourcing, land acquisition, utility relocation, project timeframes and/or potential scope changes. There may be other risks that also need to be listed.

Risk responses should be specific to the project and explain the mitigation actions that are already in place or will be implemented. Where a risk depends on a third party, approval, market condition or future decision, applicants should explain the likely impact on the project and what contingency arrangements are available.

Applicants should avoid listing generic risks without explaining how they apply to the project. For example, if weather delays are identified, the response should explain whether the project is affected by wet season constraints, flood-prone areas, construction staging or seasonal access issues.

If approval risks are identified, the response should explain which approvals are required, when they will be sought and how delays would be managed.

Examples of supporting evidence

- project plans or schedules with key delivery milestones
- design drawings, design reports and/or preliminary investigations
- evidence of required approvals in place or being sought
- procurement plans
- project governance framework or governance plans
- organisation capacity statements, information about similar projects delivered, letters of engagement or Memoranda of Understanding with delivery partners
- detailed cost estimates, quantity surveyor reports or supplier and contractor quotes
- contingency, escalation, cashflow assumptions or benchmarking against similar projects
- land access, utility, environmental or cultural heritage investigation advice
- project risk registers or risk assessments
- contingency plans for weather, cost escalation, approvals delays, resourcing constraints and/or competing project commitments
- engineering designs (if applicable).

3.8 Conflict of Interest

In this tab, applicants must disclose any actual, apparent or potential conflicts of interest. If no conflict is known, applicants must complete the no known conflict of interest declaration. If a conflict exists or may arise, applicants must provide clear details and explain how the conflict will be managed. This section must be completed by a person with the appropriate authority to make the declaration, typically someone at an executive level who is authorised to make commitments on the organisation’s behalf.

3.9 Declaration and Authorisation

The declaration tab must be completed by an authorised officer who is able to submit the application on behalf of the organisation applying for the funding. Applicants should read each declaration carefully before submitting the application. By submitting the application, the authorised officer confirms that the information provided in the application (across RPM, the application form, and attached documents) is true and correct and that the applicant understands the funding, delivery and reporting requirements set out in the Program Guidelines.

4. Further information

For further information please review the materials available on the SLRIP Resources webpage.

For questions relating to the application process please email SLRIP-applications@infrastructure.gov.au.

For assistance with RPM, please contact RPMSupport@infrastructure.gov.au.