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

Safer Local Roads Infrastructure Program

Frequently Asked Questions

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Application process

When can applications be submitted?

The Safer Local Roads Infrastructure Program (the program) accepts applications during two tranches each year. Tranche opening and closing dates will be advised on the SLRIP Resources webpage.

Applications must be submitted before the tranche closing date. If the deadline is missed a new application will need to be submitted in the next tranche.

How do I submit an application?

All applications must be submitted through the Reporting and Program Management (RPM) portal unless otherwise advised by the department.

You must navigate to the ***Project Applications*** page and click ***Create a Project Application***.

You must:

- complete all mandatory fields in the system, and optional fields as relevant
- upload their application form
- upload supporting evidence
- click ***Submit Project Application*** to submit.

Applications can be saved in draft to come back to later before submitting them.

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

Can my project address more than one program objective?

All proposed projects must deliver a road safety outcome, and you must also nominate the **one** Program objective that **best** aligns with the primary purpose of the project (which may or may not be road safety).

The program objectives are:

- Road safety
- Productivity
- Road resilience
- Sustainability.

If a project addresses more than one program objective, these additional benefits can be outlined in the response to Criterion 2 (Project benefits and impact).

My project aligns with multiple project streams. Which one should I select?

Choose the project stream that best aligns with the primary purpose of your project. For instance, if you are:

- raising a long section of road and replacing one culvert as part of the project, this likely falls under the *Road construction and upgrades* project stream
- upgrading a bridge and sealing a small section of road on the approach, this likely falls under the *Bridge Renewal* project stream
- constructing a new heavy vehicle rest area and concurrently upgrading a section of road to make the entry/exit points safer, this likely falls under the *Heavy vehicle facilities* project stream.

If you are unsure which project stream to choose, contact SLRIP-applications@infrastructure.gov.au well ahead of the tranche closure date.

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

The definition of urban, regional and remote is taken from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. You can check how your project will be considered by:

- navigating to this map
- clicking in the 'Choose a boundary type' box, scrolling down and selecting "2021 Remoteness Area (RA)" boundaries
- entering the project's address or geocodes in the 'Find address or place' box
- clicking on the project's location in the map to see how it is categorised.

Projects located in:

- Major Cities of Australia are considered **urban**
- Inner Regional Australia or Outer Regional Australia are considered **regional**
- Remote Australia and Very Remote Australia are considered **remote**.

Which documents do I need to provide with my application?

Applications must include:

- A fully completed application form, completing each tab, including addressing each criterion, setting out the budget information, and completing the conflict of interest and declaration tabs.
- Evidence supporting claims made in the application, demonstrating how the project aligns with the program objectives and addresses the assessment criteria.

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

Any evidence that clearly supports the answers given/claims made in the application form will strengthen an application. You should only submit documents that directly support claims made in your application, and where you provide supporting documents, these should be clearly referenced in your claims against the assessment criteria in the application form. More information can be found in the SLRIP Application Guide on the SLRIP Resources webpage.

How much and what type of information should I include?

Your application should clearly and succinctly set out how the proposed project meets each of the assessment criteria, provide relevant information and examples and, where referring to supporting documents, provide a clear link to where in that document the relevant information can be located.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence provided in the application should be relative to the size and complexity of the project and the funding being sought. Applications will be assessed on the quality of the information provided and how well it addresses the program objectives and assessment criteria.

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.

Why is it a requirement to have the co-contribution secured prior to submitting an application?

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. This also avoids project delays caused by budget approval processes. You are required to list all co-funding sources being used to meet your project cost co-contribution.

Can I submit more than one application per tranche?

Yes, you can apply for multiple projects, noting you must submit a separate complete application for each project. Each project must be whole and complete and not reliant upon other projects. Broader projects cannot be separated into smaller projects in order to be submitted as separate applications in one tranche.

Where you submit more than one application in a tranche, you must be ready and able to deliver all projects submitted in the timeframes provided in each application, and in accordance with the guidelines, noting more than one application may be approved.

Who needs to complete the conflict of interest and the declaration and authorisation in the application form?

Both the conflict of interest and the declaration and authorisation tabs in the application form need to be completed by a person with the appropriate authority to make the declaration. This is typically someone at an executive level who is authorised to make commitments on the organisation's behalf.

The conflict of interest section of the application form also requires a witness. A colleague from your organisation will suffice as a witness.

Are joint applications allowed?

Applications in partnership with other government and non-government entities must have a lead applicant from a state or territory government, or Local Government Authority (LGA). Applications cannot be submitted by, and will not be accepted from, any other entity.

The lead proponent is responsible for delivery of the project and determines who undertakes the work required for the project. For example, if an LGA is the proponent, it could partner with another organisation to deliver the works. However, ultimate responsibility for the project and compliance with the program guidelines and funding offer sit with the lead proponent.

A collective of LGAs can apply to deliver a project, however there must be a lead LGA, which is responsible for delivery of the project. Milestone payments would be made to the relevant state government agency and would generally be paid only to the lead LGA (who could then distribute payments to other LGAs).

The program accepts applications from state and territory governments and LGAs that provide council services to 'unincorporated areas'. However, the program does not accept applications from private company authorities that provide these services.

These arrangements are consistent with other sub-programs within the Infrastructure Investment Program.

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

No, there is no requirement for you to consult with the department prior to lodging an application. If you have any questions about the application process, you can contact the department via email at SLRIP-applications@infrastructure.gov.au.

Assessment process

How will my application be assessed?

The department will review all applications against the eligibility criteria. Eligible applications will then proceed to merit assessment. The department will consider each application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the assessment criteria

- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

The three assessment criteria are:

- Strategic fit
- Project benefits and impact
- Project deliverability.

For more information, go to the program guidelines and the SLRIP application guide on the SLRIP Resources webpage.

Upon completion of the assessment of a tranche of applications, the department will recommend projects to the Minister (or their delegate) for approval. Recommendations to the Minister (or delegate) will be informed by the department's merit assessment and the available program budget for each funding tranche.

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

The department may contact you to clarify information provided in the application, however for probity reasons and to avoid bias, new or additional information will not be sought or considered after the close of the tranche. Please note that incomplete or incorrect applications may be deemed ineligible and may not proceed to merit assessment.

Will applications seeking a lower co-contribution amount or percentage score better on the merit assessment?

No. These factors are not considered in the merit assessment.

Who approves applications for funding?

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

How long will it take to find out if my application has been successful?

Following closure of a tranche, assessment and approval processes can take at least 12 weeks, and negotiation and approval of the funding offer for successful projects can take up to an additional 6-8 weeks.

How do I find out the outcome of my application?

Once projects have been approved and announced, all applicants will receive an email with the outcome of their application/s.

Will there be a reserve list of applications?

No, an unsuccessful application from one tranche will not automatically be considered in the next tranche. A reserve list is not kept as details on projects can change significantly over time, costs can increase and confirmation of co-contributions can also change.

If my project is unsuccessful, can I resubmit an application?

Yes, projects can be resubmitted if they are not successful. If you submit an application and it is not successful, you will be offered feedback on the application and encouraged to improve it if you plan to submit it again in a future tranche.

You should note that the application form may be updated between each tranche, and you must ensure you are using the most current form with up-to-date information on the project timeframes, budget and benefits when reapplying.

What happens if my application is successful?

If your application is successful, you will receive an email from the department to arrange an inception meeting. At this meeting you will discuss the delivery arrangements for the project including milestone types and dates, and you will then be sent a funding offer for your signature. Once you have returned the funding offer and it has been approved, your project can commence.

Can I start construction before my funding offer is approved?

Proponents should not commence construction until the department provides written confirmation that the funding offer has been approved. Any costs incurred by you prior to the approval of the funding offer are at your organisation's own risk.