2022-24 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (Round Three)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Local governments are encouraged to read the program guidelines and accompanying FAQs prior to submitting an application for funding under the 2022-2024 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (Round 3).

For technical enquiries, please contact the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) by email at levyready@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au

For all other program related enquiries, please contact the Department of Environment and Science by email at <u>wasteprograms@des.qld.gov.au</u>

What did the previous Local Government Levy Ready Grant Programs cover?

Round one (2018-19) assisted local governments upgrade leviable waste disposal sites to prepare for changes to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act* 2011 (**the Act**) introduced on 1 July 2019. Round one funded eligible local government sites with an Environmental Authority (EA) to receive more than 5,000 tonnes of leviable waste per year.

Round two (2020-21) assisted local governments upgrade or close sites to prepare for changes to the Act introduced on 1 July 2021. Round one funded eligible section 325 small leviable sites with an EA to receive less than 2,000 tonnes of leviable waste per year.

What is funded under the Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program 2022-2024 program? Round three (2022-24) will support eligible local governments transition sites unable to access funding through Round one or two. The targeted competitive Program will offer funding support up to 60 percent of the eligible costs, to deliver one of the following options:

- Close and rehabilitate the eligible site (Site)
- Transition the Site from a landfill to a waste transfer station or resource recovery facility
- Install suitable infrastructure to ensure the Site complies with section 57(1)(c) of the Act before 1 July 2024.

For more information on eligible applicants, eligible projects, or eligible costs, refer to the Program guidelines.

Why is the legislation changing as of 1 July 2024?

From 1 July 2024, section 57 of the Act will also apply to all sites within the leviable zone with an authority to dispose less than 5,000 tonnes of waste per year, requiring each site to have a weighbridge at the site. The operators of these sites will need to measure and record waste as it enters and leaves the site, in accordance with section 59 and 61 of the Act.

What is the project completion date?

To ensure compliance with the Act, all approved projects must be completed by 30 June 2024. Project acquittal must occur no later than 90 days after the project completion date.

Can projects that are underway be funded under the 2022-2024 program?

Yes. However, the 2022-2024 program will only fund eligible project costs for works that have not yet commenced. Further information on ineligible costs can be found in the Program guidelines.

Will successful local governments have to contribute financially towards their project/s?

Yes. Successful local governments will be required to contribute financially towards their approved project/s. Applicants can seek a subsidy of up to 60 percent of eligible project costs and will be liable for all remaining project costs. Each application must demonstrate how the applicants intend to fund the remaining project costs.

How do I apply for the 2022-2024 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program?

To apply, local governments must complete and submit an application form providing all requested supporting documentation as detailed in the program guidelines. The application form is available on the <u>DSDILGP website</u>.

Applications must be submitted through the eGrant application portal. Further information including how to apply and application timeframes can be found in the Program guidelines.

What supporting information is required with the application?

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- a project management plan and accompanying risk assessment (to be completed within eGrants).
- Quotes, estimates or contracts in support of the estimated project costs, where available.
- Other documentation demonstrating the local government's understanding of whole of asset cost e.g. asset management plans, if available.

Further information about how to apply and the assessment process can be found on in the Program guidelines and on the eGrant application portal. Applications without the required information may be considered incomplete.

Can a single application be submitted for multiple project proposals?

No, local governments seeking project funding for multiple sites must submit separate project proposals for each site. Within each project proposal, funding can be requested for a number of components related to that site.

How will project proposals be assessed?

All eligible project proposals will be assessed by an appropriately qualified assessment and moderation panel against the eligibility and assessment criteria detailed in the program guidelines. The panel will then make recommendations on successful projects for consideration to the Director General, Department of Environment and Science.

If successful, how will the funding arrangement be formalised?

Successful local governments will be required to execute a project funding schedule under their head funding agreement with the State, which will constitute the project funding agreement. If a successful local government has not entered a head funding agreement with the State, they will be required to do so. The project funding agreement will set out the arrangements for payment of project funding in accordance with a milestone schedule.

How will successful local governments be paid?

The DSDILGP will make payments according to the payment schedule detailed in the program guidelines. Local governments will be required to raise a Project Claim Request in the eGrant Portal in order to receive the second and any subsequent payments under the 2022-2024 program. Within this request, the local government will be required to certify that the funded work has been completed to a satisfactory standard and all documented expenditure has been incurred conducting approved activities stated in the program guidelines and project funding agreement.