

2020-2021 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (Round 2)

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 2020-2021 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (Round 2).

For all general program enquiries, please contact the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA) Brisbane office on (07) 3452 7583 or email 2020-21LocalGovernmentLevyReadyGrantProgram-R2@dlgrma.qld.gov.au

What is the difference between the 2018-2019 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program and the 2020-2021 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (Round 2)?

The 2018-2019 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (2018-2019 program) provided funding to local governments to upgrade large levyable waste disposal sites authorised to dispose of more than 2,000 tonnes of waste per year. All projects funded made waste disposal sites compliant with the requirements of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (the Act) by 1 July 2019.

The 2020-2021 Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (Round 2) (2020-2021 program) will provide funding to eligible local governments in the levy zone to upgrade or close section 325 small sites to meet increasing legislative obligations by 30 June 2021. Local governments were ineligible to apply for funding for section 325 small sites under the 2018-2019 program.

What is a Section 325 small site?

A section 325 small site is a levyable waste disposal site with:

- an environmental authority to dispose of < 2,000 tonnes of waste in a year, and
- is subject to a section 325 temporary exemption from the requirement to measure and record waste in accordance with the Act.

What legislative obligations are changing as of 30 June 2021?

Section 325 small sites will face increasing legislative obligations following the expiration of the temporary exemption from 30 June 2021. From this point on, section 325 small sites will be required to measure and record waste as it enters and leaves the levyable waste disposal site, in accordance with section 59 and 61 of the Act.

What is being funded under the 2020-2021 program?

The 2020-2021 program will provide funding to either:

- Upgrade section 325 small sites to meet impending legislative requirements under section 59 of the Act, or
- Transition section 325 small sites so they are no longer levyable waste disposal sites subject to section 59 of the Act.

Example projects include:

- upgrades to site security such as the installation of CCTV cameras and lockable gates to ensure waste can be monitored and recorded as it enters and leaves the site; or
- Infrastructure upgrades to transition the site to a transfer station or other alternative to ensure continuity of service.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) will accept a broad range of projects provided they align with the requirements of the program guideline.

What are eligible project costs under the 2020-2021 program?

Project Funding may be applied towards eligible project costs, including funding for:

- Security e.g. lighting, secure boundary fencing, bollards, barriers and lockable gates.
- Utilities e.g. connections and/or upgrades to energy, waste and/or internet facilities.
- Traffic control measures e.g. signage and traffic lights.
- Earthworks and roadworks at the levyable waste disposal site.
- Closing and capping the landfill.
- Other necessary infrastructure and/or upgrades to meet impending legislative requirements.

When do projects have to be complete?

To ensure compliance with the Act, all approved projects must be completed by 30 June 2021 and final acquittal documentation provided by 31 July 2021. Extensions of project timeframes will be at the complete discretion of the Chief Executive, DES.

Can works that have commenced be funded under the 2020-2021 program?

Yes. The 2020-2021 program will fund eligible project costs for projects that have commenced in the 2020-2021 financial year, that are incomplete at the time of executing the Project Funding Agreement.

Are private waste disposal facility operators eligible to apply for funding?

No. Eligible applicants under the 2020-2021 program are Charters Towers Regional Council, Whitsunday Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council, Toowoomba Regional Council and Banana Shire Council.

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. Local governments will be allocated a subsidy of up to 80 percent of eligible project costs and will be liable for all remaining project costs. Local governments may request a higher subsidy rate in their application. The decision to award a higher subsidy amount will at the discretion of the Chief Executive, DES.

How do I apply for the 2020-2021 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 DLGRMA website at <http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/local-government/grants/current-programs.html>.

Complete applications must be submitted to the DLGRMA by email at 2020-21LocalGovernmentLevyReadyGrantProgram-Round2@dlgrma.qld.gov.au by **5:00PM 6 November 2020**.

What supporting information is required with the application?

Local governments will be required to provide the following supporting information with their application:

- A complete project management plan and accompanying risk assessment (template provided on DLGRMA website).
- A letter from the local government's chief executive authorising the project and the local government's co-contribution.
- Quotes, estimates or contracts justifying 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.

Applications which do not provide all of the above listed attachments will be considered incomplete.

Can a single application be submitted for multiple project proposals?

Local governments seeking project funding for multiple section 325 small 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 Chief Executive, DES.

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 DLGRMA will make payments according to the payment schedule detailed in the program guidelines. Local governments will be required to submit a prescribed payment form in order to receive the second and final payment under the 2020-2021 program. Within this form 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.

Can the local government appeal a decision made?

Local governments can only appeal decisions relating to the eligibility of their application. Local governments cannot appeal the assessment panel's recommendations, the decision to part fund a project, or the decision to fund another organisation or project.