

September 2024

## Frequently Asked Questions Central-West Orana REZ – Legacy Infrastructure Fund

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### What is the Legacy Infrastructure Fund?

The Legacy Infrastructure Fund (LIF) is a new, \$45 million grant fund provided under the **Community and Employment Benefit Program** (the Program).

The LIF aims to deliver infrastructure projects that will deliver long-term and legacy benefits for local communities within the Central-West Orana REZ.

The LIF Objectives are to:

- Improve liveability through greater access to health services, housing and accommodation, telecommunication connectivity and other public services and infrastructure;
- Increase community connection through improved access to quality sport, recreation, and other community infrastructure; and
- Support regional economic development and diversification through enabling infrastructure projects.

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### Who can apply?

This opportunity is a closed, non-competitive grant round. Eligible Applicants include:

- Dubbo Regional Council;
- Mid-Western Regional Council;
- Upper Hunter Shire Council; and
- Warrumbungle Shire Council.

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### Why aren't other councils within the Central-West Orana REZ identified as Eligible Applicants?

Several factors considered when determining eligibility for the LIF, including the location of the Council Local Government Area (LGA) relative to the Central-West Orana REZ boundary and the level of impact of the Central-West Orana REZ on communities within the respective LGA.

Whilst there are several other Councils with a portion of their LGA within the REZ boundary, the four eligible Councils are both within the REZ boundary **and** identified as being adequately impacted by the REZ.

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## What types of projects are eligible?

Infrastructure projects that will benefit communities within the Central-West Orana REZ geographic area and meet the LIF Objectives as outlined in the Grant Guidelines. Programs and services are not eligible project types.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate how they've undertaken community consultation and gained community support for their project. Evidence can be provided through the provision of stakeholder letters of support, online surveys or documented meeting minutes from community consultative forums.

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## Is there a minimum or maximum grant amount?

Eligible Applicants must seek funding for an amount between a minimum of **\$500,000** to a maximum of **\$11.25 million** (GST exclusive).

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## When do applications open and close?

The fund opens on Monday 15 July 2024 and closes on Friday 13 September at 4:00pm.

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## When will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed from 16 September 2024.

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## How long do we have to deliver the project?

Projects must commence within three months of an executed funding deed and must be completed by December 2028.

"Commencement of a project" refers to any project development activities (including planning works, Development Application preparation or submission, procurement planning or contractor engagement).

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## Can my project be located within the boundaries of an eligible LGA but outside of the Renewable Energy Zone?

No, projects must be located within the Central-West Orana REZ geographic area (as defined [here](#)) and deliver their primary benefits within the Central-West Orana REZ.

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## Is a co-contribution required?

Financial co-contributions are not mandatory for a project to be eligible for funding but may help support a project's financial viability.

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## Can an organisation apply for more than one project?

Yes. Applicants requesting grant funding for multiple projects must submit separate Application Forms for each project.

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## Will I need to provide a Business Case as part of my application?

Applicants will need to provide a Business Case if the grant request is over **\$5 million**.

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## My project is over \$5 million and I already have a Business Case prepared. Do I have to use the Business Case template provided on the webpage?

No, if you already have a Business Case prepared for your infrastructure project, you do not need to use the Business Case template provided on the webpage. However, ensure all required fields and information (provided in the Business Case template) are included in your Business Case.

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## How will we know if our application is successful?

Successful Applicants will be notified in writing via a Letter of Conditional Offer with Confidentiality. Unsuccessful Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of the application and will be offered a feedback information session.

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## When can we announce our project to the public?

Applicants must keep funding decisions and assessment outcomes confidential until announced by the NSW Government or the Applicant is advised that announcement can proceed.

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