



Australian Government  
Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications

# Building Better Regions Fund Round 5

The below questions were raised during the Building Better Regions Fund Round Five Program overview on 5 February 2021.

Whilst comments were made from participants throughout the Webinar, we have sought to answer relevant questions posed by participants in the table below. Should the below answers not fully answer the question, or if you have further questions, please contact the AusIndustry Business Grants Hub on 13 28 46 to discuss your individual circumstances.

The recording of the Webinar can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgVKq-Nz1T0>

Question/Comment	Answer
What is the cap on pre-construction activities?	There is 20% cap for pre-construction activities outlined in <b>Appendix A and B</b> of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the Guidelines) which covers for those are unexpected circumstances once the project commences e.g. projects start but site works uncovers unexpected artefacts and the project has to be redesigned or new approvals obtained. However, the intention is that the grant funding is primarily for the key eligible activities of construction/upgrade/ expansion of infrastructure rather than activities that should be mostly completed prior to the project being investment ready.
In relation to Community Investment Stream projects: How about a Farmers Market? That is a recurring event, but takes time to establish a sustainable model.	Please contact the AusIndustry Business Grants Hub on 13 28 46 if you would like further information regarding specific projects.
Roughly what percent of applications for exemptions ( <i>co-funding</i> ) get approved to go through to assessment?	As every individual applicant's circumstances are different it really does come down to the specific reason for requesting the exemption.
For an exemption request, will in-kind contributions be taken into account? ie. a local council owns equipment (eg. excavator) that could be used in the project	As per <b>Section 6</b> of the Guidelines, in-kind support will be considered under <b>sub section 6.4 - Assessment criterion 4</b> . The level of cash contribution and the level of in-kind support are considered relative to the project for part of this criterion.  We recommend applicants claim all the appropriate in-kind support relevant to their project. In-kind support claims could include the reasonable costs related to using their own equipment and this should be supported by some sort of independent evidence.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost of an excavator would not be viewed as being a reasonable claim as it would have use (and an effective life) greater than the BBRF project.</li> <li>• It could be reasonable to claim the savings versus renting a similar vehicle, or depreciation of the asset over the course of the project plus consumables.</li> <li>• There are no specific, defined rules on depreciation for BBRF. An applicant could put forward a reasonable claim that an excavator has an effective life of five years according to the ATO, and a 2 year BBRF project would represent a depreciation of 40% of the total vehicle value (assuming the vehicle is used solely for the BBRF project in that time).</li> </ul> <p>As these in-kind costs cannot be claimed as eligible expenditure for the purposes of grant funding, applicants should weigh up how much effort they spend on working out specific in-kind support.</p>
Can you cover questions about applicants wishing to ask for an exemption on cash contribution? Noosa council is putting in an application.	Please contact the AusIndustry Business Grants Hub on 13 28 46 if you would like further information regarding specific projects.
What is the targeted timing for announcing successful projects	Announcements about successful applications is expected mid 2021
Infrastructure projects - is the focus in the application and assessment on risks directly related to the construction / creation of the object? More so than the risks related to the outcome and projects enabled by the constructed infrastructure?	<p>The risk plan in the application is primarily focused on the management of the risk associated with the delivery of the proposed project. This information is applicable to <b>Section 6</b> of the Guidelines, <b>Subsection 6.3 - Assessment Criterion 3</b> as it relates to project delivery.</p> <p>Larger projects may have separate risk plans in relation to project outcomes as part of the cost-benefit analysis.</p>
The question "Would the project happen anyway", asked as part of Assessment Criteria Four, could be a double edged sword. If the answer is NO, how does it score on this criteria?	<b>Section 6</b> of the Guidelines for Round Five sets out the assessment criteria that is used by the AusIndustry Business Grants Hub to assess applications. <b>Sub section 6.4 – Assessment Criterion 4</b> requires applicants to demonstrate the impact of funding on



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Question/Comment	Answer
	the project including the likelihood the project would proceed without the grant. Applicants should provide as much information and evidence as possible to support the impact the grant will have on the project's ability to be delivered successfully.
Do we need 100% firm guaranteed commitment of the 'matching funds' at the time of lodgement? Can the matching funds be 'in kind'?	<b>Section 3 subsection 3.1</b> of the Guidelines for Round Five states that in kind funding is not considered to be co-funding or matched funding. All contributions must be cash and be used towards eligible expenditure.
In an instance where infrastructure developments may be staged over a period of years, are the separate stages eligible for multiple funding applications, or will developments at a single site be viewed as a whole and only permitted a single grant application?	As per <b>Section 2, subsection 2.1.1</b> , the Guidelines do not prohibit applying for BBRF funding for different stages of the project (with the exception of local events under the Community Investment stream).
Do you have guidance on the acceptable hourly rate to value volunteer time on project steering committees etc? Can we just use the hourly rate they would apply in their own businesses?	We do not have guidance on what is an acceptable rate. A typical and reasonable measure would be the hourly rate of their business. For example, if a tradesperson was volunteering labour on a cricket clubhouse we would accept the opportunity cost would be the standard hourly rate plus call out fee for the tradesperson. The rate used should include a description of the assumptions used and be reasonable.
Can the assessors, at their discretion, award less than the requested amount or is the application assessed only for the amount requested?	The grant amount offered to the successful applicants is a decision for the Ministerial Panel. The guidelines allow for the Ministerial Panel to take into account a number of factors in their decision making including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spread of funding and projects across regions</li> <li>• Whether similar projects exist to ensure that projects build on and support other projects and services, while not duplicating them</li> <li>• Previous finding under other programs, which may result in offering an amount different to the grant amount requested.</li> </ul>