



Grant Opportunity Guidelines

First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grants Round 1

Opening date:	4 March 2026
Closing date and time:	<p>3 September 2026</p> <p>5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Daylight Time</p> <p>4.30 pm Australian Central Standard Time</p> <p>3.00 pm Australian Western Standard Time</p> <p>Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.</p>
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
Date guidelines released:	4 March 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Demand driven

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1. First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grants Round 1 processes

The First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grants program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

The First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grants Round 1 (Advice Grants Round 1) is part of the above program which contributes to the DCCEEW's Outcome 1: Support the transition of Australia's economy to net-zero emissions by 2050; transition energy to support net zero while maintaining security, reliability and affordability; support actions to promote adaptation and strengthen resilience of Australia's economy, society and environment; and take a leadership role internationally in responding to climate change. DCCEEW works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form, addressing all criteria in order for your eligibility to be assessed.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are eligible for a grant.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the eligibility of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are eligible.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You complete the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Advice Grants Round 1

DCCEEW will evaluate the specific grant activity and Advice Grants Round 1 as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Advice Grants Round 1.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR) on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at section 13.

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the grant program

The First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grants program (the program) will run over 3 years from 2025-26 to 2027-28. The program was announced as part of the implementation of the Government's [First Nations Clean Energy Strategy](#) and will consist of two funding rounds.

The objectives of the program are to support First Nations communities to participate in clean energy development (for definition see section 13) and:

- build clean energy project skills and knowledge
- access technical and professional support
- make informed decisions as per principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

The intended outcomes of the program are for First Nations communities to gain increased:

- access to technical and professional support
- confidence in engagement with clean energy developers and clean energy development opportunities
- collaboration and engagement with the clean energy industry
- clean energy project skills and knowledge
- participation in clean energy projects
- benefits from participation in clean energy development.

There will be other grant opportunities as part of this program and we will publish the opening and closing dates and any other relevant information on [business.gov.au](#) and [GrantConnect](#).

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#)¹.

2.1. Advice Grants Round 1 grant opportunity

The Advice Grants Round 1 will run from 2025-26 to 2026-27.

3. Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$39.455 million over 3 years for the program.

For Advice Grants Round 1 up to \$8.640 million is available from 2025-26 to 2026-27.

- The minimum grant amount is \$5,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$80,000.

Depending on your total needs, the grant may only cover a percentage of costs, up to the maximum amount available. You are responsible for any remaining project costs. You cannot apply for a top-up once you have received the agreed grant amount.

Each organisation can only receive one grant under each round of the program. If you submit more than one application, only the first eligible application will be funded.

Eligible applicants without an ABN may partner with a First Nations organisation or group who agrees to auspice funds on their behalf. You must include details regarding your auspicings arrangement as an attachment to your application. An auspicings organisation or group may auspice more than one organisation or group, and must submit a separate application for each organisation or group they auspice. If you are applying as an auspicings organisation, you can only receive one grant under each round of the program for each organisation or group you are auspicings. Required attachments for auspicings arrangements are set out in section 6.1.

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding for the same activities from another Commonwealth Government grant. You can apply for a grant for your project under more than one Commonwealth program, but if your application is successful, you must choose either the Advice Grants Round 1 or the other Commonwealth grant.

3.1. Project period

The minimum project period is 2 months.

The maximum project period is 12 months.

You must complete your Advice Grants Round 1 project by 31 March 2028.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- be a First Nations organisation or group
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) (see below if you don't hold an ABN)

and be one of the following:

- an entity, incorporated in Australia (this includes corporations and Indigenous land management organisations registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations)
- a registered land council representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, or an entity that manages or holds land rights, native title or other Traditional Owner related agreements and settlements, including a land council established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*
- an Australian incorporated not for profit association or cooperative
- an Australian incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- a partnership based in Australia.

If you are a First Nations organisation or group without an ABN you may work with another First Nations organisation or group in an auspicing arrangement. The auspicing organisation or group must hold an ABN and meet the eligibility criteria in this section. See section 6.1 for details regarding required attachments for auspicing arrangements.

4.2. Additional eligibility requirements

We can only accept applications where you:

- declare that you are a First Nations organisation or group
- submit a description of your opportunity to participate in clean energy development.

If you are auspicing an organisation to apply, you must:

- declare that you are First Nations organisation or group
- submit a description of the clean energy opportunity available to the auspiced organisation or group
- attach a signed declaration from the auspiced organisation or group that they:
 - are a First Nations organisation or group
 - have an opportunity to participate in clean energy development
 - are being auspiced only once.

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances. See section 6.1 for required attachments.

4.3. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- any organisation not included in section 4.1

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- an organisation included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an organisation that is insolvent, subject to insolvency proceedings, or that has declared bankruptcy
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- an individual
- a Regional Development Australia Committee
- an unincorporated association
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government body (including government business enterprises) not specified in section 4.1
- a non-corporate Commonwealth entity
- a non-First Nations group or organisation.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your project must aim to increase the capacity, capability and confidence of First Nations communities to:

- lead, participate or respond to clean energy development opportunities
- engage with clean energy developers and clean energy development opportunities.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and may include, but are not limited to:

- procurement of consulting, expert or professional advice to support negotiation and progression of clean energy development. Examples of eligible advice may include:
 - data collection, fieldwork and analysis (for example: renewable energy resource assessments and monitoring; surveying and mapping including cultural mapping for clean energy planning.
 - feasibility, cost benefit and viability analysis (for example: site assessments for renewable generation and transmission infrastructure; grid connection studies; modelling)
 - commercial, financial and risk advice (for example: contract negotiations and/or drafting of agreements with renewable energy developers; development of business models, structuring and planning; permits and approvals; financial modelling; debt/equity models)
 - legal and governance advice (for example: advice about appropriate governance structures and/or establishing an entity to facilitate ownership or partnerships in energy projects and/ or for realising community benefits outcomes)
 - business and workforce planning advice
- engagement through meetings and similar activities with Traditional Owners, members of organisations listed under section 4.1, Native Title holders and other First Nations peoples as required
- engagement of a representative to negotiate with clean energy developers and/or progress a clean energy project on behalf of the applicant

- employment of staff to support and build capacity within First Nations communities to engage with clean energy development opportunities
- training, skills, and information-based activities in relation to clean energy development opportunities (for example: hosting workshops; developing communications materials; training programs to build community capacity)
- activities to improve skills and governance capability, to respond to or develop clean energy project opportunities
- business planning and management training and/or activities to improve skills and governance capability of First Nations communities affected by clean energy development opportunities
- other reasonable administrative costs or any additional incremental costs associated with the project.

5.2. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure associated with the eligible activities listed at section 5.1 and as defined in your grant agreement. All applications must provide quote/s and relevant documents for eligible expenditure where total expenditure exceeds \$40,000.

Eligible expenditure items can include but are not limited to:

- costs for advisory services (independent consultants and experts) and/or staff engagement to support activities related to clean energy project:
 - development
 - negotiation
 - engagement with community
 - community representation
 - technical expertise
 - legal advice
 - financial advice
 - renewable resource mapping
 - training programs
 - administrative support
 - monitoring and reporting
 - community benefit agreements.

We may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate (who is a Manager within the department with responsibility for administering the program) makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must be a direct cost of the project.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

You must not commence your project until you execute a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

5.3. What the grant money cannot be used for

Expenditure items that are not eligible include:

- expenditure for purposes that do not directly contribute to the intended program outcomes
- purchase of land
- costs relating to *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) claims
- costs relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth) claims
- cost relating to legal, land, native title, protection, heritage or similar claims under any Commonwealth, state or territory legislation
- incorporation costs for your organisation
- wages, hiring, or redundancy costs for existing staff not directly related to project activities
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- costs successfully claimed through another grant application
- major construction/capital works
- overseas travel
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

6. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample [application form](#) and the sample [grant agreement](#) published on [business.gov.au](#) and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility criteria closely.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#). You can only submit an application during a funding round.

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we can contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

6.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide relevant documents to support your application, including:

- trust deed (where applicable)
- if you are auspicing a First Nations organisation or group to apply:
 - a signed declaration from the auspiced First Nations organisation or group that they:
 - are a First Nations organisation or group
 - have an opportunity to participate in clean energy development
 - are being auspiced only once in this grant round.
 - detail regarding your auspicing arrangement.

If your total expenditure exceeds \$40,000 you must also provide:

- quote/s for advisory services
- documentation relating to staff engagement, including:
 - position title(s) and role description(s)
 - the proposed duration of employment and hours per week allocated to clean energy project activities
 - the proposed salary(ies) or salary range(s), supported by at least one of the following:
 - a relevant enterprise agreement, award, or workplace agreement, or
 - an internal remuneration policy or salary schedule, or
 - market benchmarking evidence for comparable roles (for example a similar advertised position).

You must attach relevant supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. **You should only attach requested documents.** Individual file sizes cannot be greater than 25MB, while the total of all attachments cannot exceed 50MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

6.2. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates however please note that this grant opportunity may close earlier than scheduled if funding is exhausted. We cannot accept late applications.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your project from March 2026.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	4 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1 – 3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	Execution of grant agreement
Project completion date	31 March 2028

6.3. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7. The grant selection process

7.1. Assessment of grant applications

Your application will be considered through a demand driven grant process, which means grants will be awarded to eligible applicants in the order they are received, until the funding is fully allocated.

We will check your application to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria in order of application receipt. Eligibility assessments may commence prior to the program closing date.

Eligible applications will be considered successful provided sufficient grant funding is available.

We also consider any national interest, financial, legal/regulatory, governance or other issue or risk that we identify during any due diligence process that we conduct in respect of the applicant. This includes its directors, officers, senior managers, key personnel, its related bodies corporate (as defined in the Corporations Act) or its application that could bring the Australian Government into disrepute if it were to fund the applicant. Such issues and risks include where we consider that funding the application under this grant opportunity is likely to directly conflict with Australian Government policy. Where possible², we will provide you with an opportunity to comment on any material risks identified during this due diligence process prior to our determining the extent (if any) to which those issues or risks affect our assessment of the application and, if so, whether they are sufficient to warrant the exclusion of your application from the assessment process.

² Subject to national security and other considerations.

7.2. Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve based on eligibility criteria and the availability of grant funds.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval
- the grant funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the eligibility of your application.

The Program Delegate will not approve funding if there are insufficient program funds available across relevant financial years for the program.

8. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

8.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

9. Successful grant applications

9.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur and cannot make any payments until a grant agreement is executed.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

If you enter an agreement under the First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grants program, you cannot receive other grants for the same activities from other Commonwealth, state or territory granting programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

We will use an exchange of letters grant agreement. We will send you a letter of offer advising that your application has been successful.

You accept the offer by signing and returning to us. We consider the agreement to be executed from the date we receive your signed document. You will have 30 days from the date of our letter to sign and return to us otherwise the offer may lapse.

9.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

You will be required to comply with state/territory legislation in relation to working with children.

9.3. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount we will pay.

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds at the completion of the project.

9.4. Grant Payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities³.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on tax.

10. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#), Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on [business.gov.au](#). This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

³ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at [ato.gov.au](#)

11. How we monitor your grant activity

11.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- auspicing arrangements (if applicable).

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

11.2. Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

11.2.1. Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

11.2.2. End of project report

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report.

End of project reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project

- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date.

11.3. Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide an independent audit report. An audit report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The audit report requires you to prepare a statement of grant income and expenditure.

11.4. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum time period allowed in program guidelines year period
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project grant agreement end date. You can submit a variation request via our online portal.

If a delay in the project causes milestone achievement and payment dates to move to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is enough program funding in the relevant year to allow for the revised payment schedule. If we cannot move the funds, you may lose some grant funding.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

11.5. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

11.6. Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

11.7. Evaluation

DCCEEW will evaluate the Advice Grants Round 1 to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also request to contact you, speak with or interview you, or ask for more information to help us understand how the grant was useful for you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

11.8. Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about activities funded by this grant, including in a brochure or publication, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

‘This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.’

12. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by DISR during the application period. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

12.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions. You will not be publicly identified.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager
Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

12.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)⁴ on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

12.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per below, or
- personal information as per below

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

⁴ <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy>

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)⁵ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

12.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

⁵ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

12.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

13. Glossary

Term	Definition
administering entity	An administering entity runs some or all parts of the grant process but does not set the policy.
application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
auspicing	An arrangement where a legal entity that is eligible to apply agrees to take financial responsibility of the grant on your group's behalf.
clean energy	Energy produced from natural sources that can be renewed, including the sun, wind, water, plants and trees.
clean energy developers	A business or group that plans and manages clean energy projects from start to finish. This can include making, moving, sharing, or storing energy.
clean energy development	Activities or infrastructure with attributes of generation, transmission, distribution or storage to enable the use of clean energy.
clean energy infrastructure	Systems and equipment that make, move, share, or store clean energy.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
community benefit agreement	An agreement between the relevant community and a proponent, intended to ensure that development delivers tangible, place-based benefits to the host and adjacent communities - leaving a positive legacy.
community benefit principles	The community benefit principles are defined under section 10(3) of the Future Made in Australia Act 2024 : (a) that Future Made in Australia support should provide community benefits, in particular by:

	<p>(i) promoting safe and secure jobs that are well paid and have good conditions; and</p> <p>(ii) developing more skilled and inclusive workforces, including by investing in training and skills development and broadening opportunities for workforce participation; and</p> <p>(iii) engaging collaboratively with and achieving positive outcomes for local communities, such as First Nations communities and communities directly affected by the transition to net zero; and</p> <p>(iiia) supporting First Nations communities and traditional owners to participate in, and share in the benefits of, the transition to net zero; and</p> <p>(iv) strengthening domestic industrial capabilities, including through stronger local supply chains; and</p> <p>(v) demonstrating transparency and compliance in relation to the management of tax affairs, including benefits received under Future Made in Australia supports; and</p> <p>(b) any other principles specified in the rules for the purposes of this paragraph.</p>
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.1.
eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.

eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.2.
First Nations communities	First Nations communities refers to groups where a majority of people identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
First Nations organisation	An organisation that is 51% or more First Nations owned, managed and controlled, as per the <i>Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy 2025</i> .
Free, Prior and informed consent	<p>Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a right outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Free – Consent given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation or manipulation. A self-directed process by the community, unencumbered by expectations or, where possible, externally imposed timeline.</p> <p>Prior – consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorisation or commencement of activities and not only when the need arises to obtain approval from the community.</p> <p>Informed – the engagement and type of information that should be provided prior to seeking consent and as part of the ongoing consent.</p> <p>Consent – a collective decision made by rights holders and reached through a customary decision-making process of the affected communities.</p>
General Manager	Position title for Senior Executive Service level staff within DISR.
grant	<p>For the purposes of the CGRPs, a ‘grant’ is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> under which relevant money⁶ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁷ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government’s policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.

⁶ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁷ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A ‘program’ carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government’s whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
non-income-tax-exempt	Not exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth) or under Division 1AB of Part III of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth).
personal information	Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is: Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable: a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

Program Delegate	A Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
project	A project with a clear beginning and end that can be funded by a First Nations Clean Energy Advice Grant
renewable energy	Includes energy that is produced using natural resources that are constantly replaced and never run out. Renewable energy sources include solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy and ocean energy.
value with money	<p>Value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and ▪ the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.