



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications

## Factsheet

# Northern Australia Development Program

### Overview

The Northern Australia Development Program supports small, medium and large Northern Australia based businesses, including Indigenous businesses, to scale up, grow and diversify. The objective of the program is to create new jobs in Northern Australia and strengthen business capability and resilience.

### Grant opportunities

The Northern Australia Development Program has two grant opportunities:

#### Northern Australia Business Development Grants

Funding for small to medium businesses, including Indigenous businesses, to take the next step to diversify or grow their business through undertaking new activities including infrastructure and assets, feasibility studies, business planning and marketing activities.

#### Northern Australia Industry Transformation Grants

Funding for businesses aiming to establish a new industry or significantly grow the value of an existing industry and contribute to transformational change in a region.

### Business advisory services

The Northern Australia Development Program also provides an advisory service.

#### Strengthening Northern Australia Business Advisory Services

Eligible businesses will be given advice and support from a Business Facilitator who will help you to develop a business roadmap.

### What does the grant offer?

The grant amount will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project expenditure (grant percentage).

#### Business Development grant

- a minimum grant amount of \$50,000 and maximum of \$2 million for small to medium enterprises (up to 199 employees).

#### Industry Transformation grant

- a minimum of \$3 million and maximum of \$10 million for medium to large enterprises (greater than 20 employees).

You are responsible for the remaining eligible project expenditure. Your contribution must be cash and can come from private investment, other Commonwealth, state, territory and local government grants. You will need to provide evidence of how you intend to fund this contribution.

### How do I apply?

To apply, you:

- set up a portal account and complete the online application form available on [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au)
- address eligibility criteria
- address assessment criteria
- provide all necessary documents to support your application.

### Who is eligible?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business number (ABN)

- be a small to medium enterprise (up to 199 employees) to apply for a [Business Development grant](#)
- be a medium to large enterprise (greater than 20 employees) to apply for an [Industry Transformation grant](#)
- be a business whose project is located in Northern Australia or will significantly benefit the region.

and be one of the following entities:

- an entity incorporated in Australia and a trading corporation, where your trading activities:
  - form a sufficiently significant proportion of the corporation's overall activities as to merit it being described as a trading corporation; or
  - are a substantial and not merely peripheral activity of the corporation
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust where the trust's trading activities:
  - form a sufficiently significant proportion of the trust's overall activities as to merit it being described as a trading trust; or
  - are a substantial and not merely peripheral activity of the trust.

If you are successful in receiving a Northern Australia Development grant, you commit to working with a Strengthening Northern Australian Business facilitator to develop and implement a business roadmap.

## [What activities are eligible?](#)

Eligible activities include:

- buying, constructing, installing or commissioning of plant and equipment
- construction and/or fit out of new infrastructure
- relevant training and skills development directly related to your project
- feasibility studies/business case to bring your project to investment ready
- business planning
- marketing activities
- process design and engineering

- scaling up activities related to the business opportunity.

## [What are the assessment criteria?](#)

### [Business Development grant](#)

You must address the following assessment criteria:

1. How your project will create new jobs, scale-up, diversify and build economic resilience for your business and Northern Australia
2. Your capacity, capability and resources to deliver your business project

### [Industry Transformation grant](#)

1. How your project will support your business to create new jobs, establish a new industry or significantly grow the value of an existing industry in the Northern Australia.
2. The extent that your proposed project will diversify or grow business activity and build economic resilience in Northern Australia.
3. Your capacity, capability and resources to deliver your business project.

## [How will my application be assessed?](#)

We review your application against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, we will then assess it against the assessment criteria. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

You must address all of the assessment criteria in your application and we will only consider applications that score at least 50 per cent against each assessment criterion. If suitable we will refer your application to an independent assessment committee.

The committee will meet to assess applications in batches against the assessment criteria before recommending which projects to fund.

The Minister decides which grants to approve taking into account the application assessment, the recommendations of the committee and the availability of grant funds.

## [What will I need to do if successful?](#)

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

### **How will the grant be paid?**

We will make payments into your nominated bank account according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

### **When will I get a Business facilitator?**

You will be notified if you are successful and a business facilitator will be assigned to you. If

you are unsuccessful you may wish to engage with a facilitator to discuss opportunities to improve your business capability and next steps at no cost to your business.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information, visit [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) or call 13 28 46.