

SPORTS CLUB ENERGY & CLIMATE GRANTS

Secure Up To \$100,000 For Your Club — Before It's Gone!

🏆 Round 1 Opens: 1 July 2026

Community sports clubs across Australia can access Federal Government funding for energy efficiency, electrification and climate resilience projects. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 GST exclusive per club, with funding covering up to 100% of eligible project costs.

What's Included?

- ✓ Solar PV & Battery Systems
- ✓ LED Sports Lighting Upgrades
- ✓ EV Charging Infrastructure

Why Act Now?

- ⚡ No co-contribution required
- ⚡ Funding allocated in order of application receipt if oversubscribed
- ⚡ Thousands of clubs eligible nationwide
- ⚡ Limited Round 1 funding available
- ⚡ Applications may close early if funding capacity is reached

How We Help

At Gnowee Solar, we make the process simple:

- ✓ Eligibility Assessment
- ✓ Project Design & Scoping
- ✓ Grant Application Preparation
- ✓ Submission Management
- ✓ End-to-End Project Delivery
- ✓ Ongoing Support & Compliance

ZERO COST TO YOUR CLUB

CONTACT OUR TEAM

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Game on: Teaming up for climate action

Round 1

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Opening date:	1 July 2026
Closing date and time:	9:00 pm AEST on 28 July 2026 Applications may close earlier than this date if funding capacity has been exceeded.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact Community Grants Hub ¹ Email: support@communitygrants.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than 5:00 pm AEST on 21 July 2026
Date guidelines released:	1 July 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Open non-competitive

¹ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us>

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1. Game on: Teaming up for climate action: Round 1 processes

The Game on: Teaming up for climate action program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Waters' Outcome 1, Program 1.2: Support reliable, secure and affordable energy. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)² (CGRPs).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on [GrantConnect](#)³.



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against the eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. If you are eligible, we then assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money. A Selection Advisory Panel will be convened to contribute to the review of applications.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice, through the Selection Advisory Panel, to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker, Head of Division, Energy Performance Branch, decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature or complexity of the grant and is proportional to the risks involved.



² <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

³ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

Delivery of grant

You undertake 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 Game on: Teaming up for climate action program

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 as a whole. We base this on information you provide us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 grants (Round 1 grants).

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria and how to apply
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department).

2. About the grant program

The Game on: Teaming up for climate action (the program) will deliver \$35.262 million over 2 funding rounds and will run over 3 years from 2026–27 to 2028–29. The program was announced as part of the [Support for the Net Zero Plan](#)⁴.

The program will provide support for up to 500 community sports clubs, helping them upgrade their facilities to be more climate resilient and energy efficient.

The objectives of the program are:

- support up to 500 community sports clubs to decarbonise their operations and reduce energy bills through energy efficiency, electrification and climate resilience upgrades
- increase awareness and understanding of energy efficiency, electrification and climate adaptation activities among sports club members and their communities
- support emissions abatement to contribute to Australia's target to reduce emissions to 62-70% below 2005 levels by 2035.

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- reduced energy bills and emissions for community sports club facilities

⁴ <https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/bowen/media-releases/joint-media-release-setting-australias-2035-climate-change-target>

- costs savings to assist investment in club resources and increased participation
- climate adaptation and resilience improvements delivered to community sport club facilities
- inspire positive participation in the energy transition and practical climate resilience solutions by sports clubs and their communities.

The Community Grants Hub administers the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)⁵ (CGRPs).

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

A total of up to \$35.262 million GST exclusive over 3 years from 2026–27 to 2028–29 is available for the Game on: Teaming up for climate action program.

For this grant opportunity (Round 1 grants), up to \$17.631 million GST exclusive is available over 2 years from 2026–27 (\$15.868 million) to 2027–28 (\$1.763 million).

The Round 1 grant opportunity will be open for applications from 1 July 2026 to 9:00 pm AEST on 28 July 2026.

Applicants may be an individual community sports club; or may be a lead organisation of a small or large consortium arrangement (see section 7.2 for more details).

- The minimum grant amount is \$25,000.00 GST exclusive.
- The maximum grant amount is \$100,000.00 GST exclusive.

Each individual community sports club can apply for grant funding for a minimum \$25,000.00 to a maximum \$100,000.00 of eligible expenditure. Each lead organisation of a consortium arrangement can apply for grant funding for a minimum \$25,000.00 to a maximum \$100,000.00 of eligible expenditure per consortium member.

No wage cost indices are linked to grant funding therefore no indexation will be passed through to grantees.

The grant amount will be up to 100% of eligible expenditure.

You are responsible for any remaining eligible expenditure and ineligible project costs.

When assessing grant applications, the Selection Advisory Panel will consider regions, jurisdictions, sporting codes and priority sports. The aim is to prevent overconcentration of funding, supporting fair geographic and sport sector representation. Principles supporting distribution are outlined in **Appendix A**.

Where maximum allocations are exceeded or demand has exceeded funding capacity for the round, applications will be considered in the order of application receipt.

Applications may be submitted at any time between the open date and the closing date and time of the grant opportunity. Should there be a high level of interest for this grant opportunity, and a determination made that available funding has likely been exceeded, the department may close the grant opportunity before the scheduled closing date and time. If this occurs, an addendum will be released on [GrantConnect](#)⁶.

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

⁶ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

You can only receive one Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 or Round 2 grant. If you submit more than one individual application, or are included as part of a consortium application, only the first eligible application would be funded. If your individual application is successful in Round 1 you will not be eligible for Round 2. If a consortium application is successful in Round 1, all parties of the consortium will be considered ineligible for Round 2.

We cannot fund your project if it receives grant funding for the same activities from another Commonwealth program. Co-funding for projects is not mandatory but is encouraged. Co-funding may include, but is not limited to, other state or territory grants, rebates, private sponsorship, contributions, certification and certificates that have a monetary value and any other form of financial assistance.

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period is 16 months.

You must complete your grant project by 20 April 2028.

4. Eligibility criteria

The decision maker can choose to waive the eligibility criteria; however, they must be made aware of the risks. The waiver may be used to ensure that applicants are not excluded solely on the basis of entity type, particularly if there are applicants that may otherwise be considered suitable. Clear evidence will be provided to the decision maker to enable a decision on whether eligibility criteria should be waived.

You can apply for grants under any Commonwealth program, but if your applications are successful, you must choose either the Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 grant or the other Commonwealth grant.

Further information on entity types is available on the [Community Grants Hub webpage](#)⁷.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

4.1.1 Individual applicant

To be eligible to apply as an individual sports club, you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have an account with a financial institution

and be one of the following entity types:

- Company
- Cooperative
- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation
- School or tertiary education institution, but only if the project meets the additional eligibility requirements for this entity type in section 4.2.

⁷ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/information/information-applicants/legal-entity-status>

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust⁸, the Trustee must be one of the eligible entity types as listed above.

4.1.2 Lead organisation of a small consortium

To be eligible to apply as a lead organisation of a small consortium, you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have an account with an Australian financial institution

and be one of the following entity types:

- Company
- Cooperative
- Corporate State or Territory Entity
- Statutory Entity
- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation
- Local government
- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity (ONLY for Australian Capital Territory)
- School or tertiary educational institution, but only if the project meets the additional eligibility requirements for this entity type in section 4.2.

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust⁹, the Trustee must be one of the eligible entity types as listed above.

4.1.3 Lead organisation of a large consortium

To be eligible to apply as a lead organisation of a large consortium, you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- have an account with an Australian financial institution

and be one of the following entity types:

- Company
- Cooperative
- Corporate State or Territory Entity (but not if you are a Local Government)
- Statutory Entity
- Incorporated Association
- Indigenous Corporation

⁸ Trusts are not legal entities in their own right. To be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible entity type listed in section 4.1. Both the Trust's and Trustee's details will be collected in the application form.

⁹ Trusts are not legal entities in their own right. To be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible entity type listed in section 4.1. Both the Trust's and Trustee's details will be collected in the application form.

- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity (ONLY for Australian Capital Territory)
- School or tertiary educational institution, but only if the project meets the additional eligibility requirements for this entity type in section 4.2.

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust¹⁰, the Trustee must be one of the eligible entity types as listed above.

4.2 Additional eligibility requirements

4.2.1 Individual applicant

We can only accept applications from eligible entities under the 'individual applicant' requirements listed at section 4.1.1 that:

- provide all of the mandatory attachments listed at section 7.1

and also:

- are affiliated with the recognised state sporting association/organisation (SSO) or state sporting organisation for people with disability (SSOD) and/or the national sporting organisation (NSO) or [national sporting organisations for people with disability \(NSOD\)](#)¹¹

and either:

- are community-focused, not-for-profit, and are directly involved in the delivery of sport at community sports clubs or facilities or the management of community sport facilities

OR

- are school or tertiary educational institutions, but ONLY if the project location is in an outer regional, remote or very remote area (according to Australian Bureau of Statistics Remoteness Areas) AND provides community access to sports facilities.

4.2.2 Lead organisation of any consortium

We can only accept applications from eligible entities as the lead of a consortium where all other members of the consortium (project partners) are eligible entities under the 'individual applicant' requirements listed at section 4.1.1 and section 4.2.1.

4.3 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

4.3.1 Who is not eligible to apply as an Individual applicant

You are not eligible to apply if you are a/an:

- Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Corporate State or Territory Entity
- Local government
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Statutory Authority

¹⁰ Trusts are not legal entities in their own right. To be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible entity type listed in section 4.1. Both the Trust's and Trustee's details will be collected in the application form.

¹¹ https://www.ausport.gov.au/australian_sports_directory

- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity – except where expressly identified as being an eligible entity in section 4.1
- Non-corporate State or Territory Statutory Entity
- Partnership
- Person
- Sole Trader
- unincorporated association
- organisation engaged by the department or a subcontractor (whether engaged directly by the organisation or indirectly (for example, as a sub-subcontractor)) in relation to service delivery support for sports clubs energy and climate upgrades grant program (AusTender Reference ATM_2026_6047)
- organisation with non-compliance or unresolved acquittal issues from previous Commonwealth government grants
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#)¹² on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)¹³ on the non-compliant list.

4.3.2 Who is not eligible to apply as a Lead Organisation of a small consortium arrangement

You are not eligible to apply as a Lead Organisation of a small consortium if you are a/an:

- Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Statutory Authority
- Partnership
- Person
- Sole Trader
- unincorporated association
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity (except in the ACT or where expressly identified as being an eligible entity in section 4.1)
- organisation engaged by the department or a subcontractor (whether engaged directly by the organisation or indirectly (for example, as a sub-subcontractor)) in relation to program support provider for sports clubs energy and climate upgrades grant program (AusTender Reference ATM_2026_6047)
- organisation with non compliance or unresolved acquittal issues from previous Commonwealth government grants

¹² <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

¹³ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list>

- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#)¹⁴ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)¹⁵ on the non-compliant list.

4.3.3 Who is not eligible to apply as a Lead Organisation of a large consortium arrangement

You are not eligible to apply as a Lead Organisation of a large consortium if you are a/an:

- Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Statutory Authority
- Local government
- Partnership
- Person
- Sole Trader
- Unincorporated Association
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity (except in the ACT or where expressly identified as being an eligible entity in section 4.1)
- organisation engaged by the department or a subcontractor (whether engaged directly by the organisation or indirectly (for example, as a sub-subcontractor)) in relation to program support provider for sports clubs energy and climate upgrades grant program (AusTender Reference ATM_2026_6047)
- organisation with non-compliance or unresolved acquittal issues from previous Commonwealth government grants
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#)¹⁶ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, that is included on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)¹⁷ on the non-compliant list.

4.4 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful, relevant personnel working on the grant project must maintain the following:

- Working with vulnerable people registration
- Working with children check

¹⁴ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

¹⁵ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list>

¹⁶ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

¹⁷ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list>

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- Ensure appropriately qualified personnel are engaged to undertake agreed activities where applicable, for example:
 - hold the correct electrical license for your jurisdiction
 - hold the correct form of licence/registration to perform plumbing, draining, or gas fitting work for your jurisdiction.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible, your grant project must meet all of the following:

- be aimed at improving the energy efficiency and/or climate resilience of a community sports club facility in Australia, can demonstrate how it can help people get involved in the shift to clean energy and show communities how climate change affects their everyday lives
- have at least \$25,000.00 in eligible expenditure (to a maximum funding amount of \$100,000.00 except for consortium in accordance with section 7.2)
- cooperate with all reasonable requests from any third-party service delivery partner/s engaged by the department to communicate project messages and outcomes.

Eligible grant activities must directly relate to the grant project and can include:

- activities that improve energy efficiency across facilities, equipment, and buildings, including upgrading systems and installing renewable or efficient technologies. For example:
 - conducting an energy audit and installing solar PV with battery storage
 - upgrading LED lighting and improving HVAC systems
- activities that strengthen climate resilience across facilities and operations, including risk assessment, water and energy management, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable transport and materials practices. For example:
 - developing a climate action plan and upgrading drainage to prevent flooding
 - installing disaster resilient infrastructure and adding bike parking facilities
- activities that support related communication and education through media and promotional materials. For example:
 - creating educational signage to promote key messages.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on agreed project activities.

Eligible expenditure items can include but are not limited to:

- improving energy efficiency:
 - energy audits/sustainability plans
 - solar PV systems and battery storage including installations
 - switchboard upgrades
 - roof strengthening to support PV installation

- virtual Power Plan (VPP) integration
- LED Lighting upgrades for courts/fields and clubhouses
 - replace non-LEDs with LEDs, in accordance with guidance on appropriate sports lighting in Standards Australia publication AS 2560.2:2021
- heat pumps
 - pool heaters
 - clubhouse hot water systems
- heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC)
 - upgrade/replacement of low efficiency equipment
- appliances
 - Refrigerators, freezers, chillers
- building envelope improvements
 - high efficiency glazing
 - window shading
 - ceiling and wall insulation
 - draught sealing
- cooking equipment
 - electrification of gas appliances
- improving climate resilience
 - sustainability/climate action plan development
 - climate risk assessments
 - shading of playing/training/spectator areas
 - solid roofing, awning and/or shade sails
 - drainage upgrades to prevent flooding of courts/fields and facilities
 - storm water management, smart irrigation systems and leak detection
 - sustainable ground surface coverings and turf, permeable surfaces
 - water-saving/management activities, for example rainwater harvesting for toilets and landscaping
 - disaster readiness infrastructure for extreme weather protection – reinforced roofing and structures to withstand high winds/heavy rain. Install backup power systems during outages
 - bike parking facilities
 - circular economy practices
 - waste reduction
 - recycling stations
 - food waste composting

- electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- communication/Media
 - educational promotion products, for example signage.

We may update the guidelines 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 grant 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 grant project may be eligible for grant funding. The decision maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure.

You must incur the expenditure on your grant project between the start date and end or completion date for your grant activity for it to be eligible.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- purchase of land
- wages
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- overseas travel
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- activities that don't support the program objectives
- activities where the project location is owned by an individual, or trust/trustee (except where the trust/trustee is an eligible applicant)
- activities where the project location is owned by a school or university, except in outer regional, remote or very remote areas
- projects and activities that commence before approvals are announced and a funding agreement is signed
- purchase, or leasing of land, carparks and access roads
- bikeways or pathways (unless directly related to the project)
- projects that do not meet Australian Standards and National Construction Code
- projects in facilities where the facility is generally used for commercial operations, including licensed bar areas and/or gaming machines. Projects in dual-use facilities are permitted – such as, where there are some limited areas in the facility that are generally used for commercial operations, but the facility is otherwise generally used for grass-roots sports.
- gas-to-gas or electric-to-gas conversions

- diesel generators
- works already commenced or completed
- activities, equipment, or supplies that are already being funded through other sources (except through eligible co-funding)
- cosmetic renovations (for example new floors, signage that is not directly related to the project, furniture)
- purchase of televisions, entertainment systems, laptops, computers and associated equipment
- costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project)
- internal salaries, wages or labour costs for employees of the community sports organisation.
- the cost of 'business as usual' activities, including annual maintenance, rent, water, rates, postage, legal and accounting fees, bank charges and consumables such as paper, printer cartridges, office supplies, brochures and other marketing materials, kitchen supplies including food
- routine maintenance/repair costs
- purchase of vehicles or fuel
- operational costs
- events and marketing costs
- non-climate-adaptation landscaping, for example decorative gardens or turf replacement without water efficiency or resilience benefits
- projects already funded by other programs (except where this is eligible co-funding)
- non-compliant or unapproved technologies
- activities for personal or commercial benefit such as upgrades for private residences or businesses not directly tied to the community sports facility
- sporting apparel, equipment and scoreboards
- costs associated with compliance with white certificates - Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) and NSW Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs)
- costs associated with compliance with small scale technology certificates (STCs)
- costs related to preparing the grant application, preparing any project reports (except costs of independent audit reports we require) and preparing any project variation requests.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application.

All the assessment criteria are equally weighted.

The application form includes character limits – up to 6,000 characters (approximately 900 words) per criterion.

The application form will not accept characters beyond this limit. Please note spaces are included in the character limit.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested. Please note there is a 2 MB limit for each attachment.

In addition, the responses you provide in the application form “Project Plan” and “Risk Assessment” will be assessed as part of your application.

In assessing your responses to each of the criteria below, we will rate the response using Table 1 below.

Table 1: Assessment criteria rating scale

<u>Rating of Excellent</u>	<u>Rating of Good</u>	<u>Rating of Satisfactory</u>	<u>Rating of Poor</u>	<u>Rating of Very Poor</u>
The applicant has provided a strong response to the criteria.	The applicant has provided a good response to the criteria with a further level of thought and detail.	The applicant has provided a satisfactory response to the criteria.	The applicant has provided a weak response to the criteria.	The applicant has provided a very weak response to the criteria.
Exceeds requirements in all ways.	Meets requirements in all ways, exceeds them in some.	Meets requirements and is workable.	Nearly meets requirements, workable but may be deficient or limited in some areas.	Applicant has either stated or demonstrated non-compliance, poorly addressed criteria or there is insufficient information to assess.
All criteria have been addressed with the majority addressed to a high standard.	The applicant has addressed all criteria.	The majority of criteria have been addressed.	A minority of criteria have been addressed.	No analysis has been provided all the sub-criteria are largely repeated.
A strong case has been made by the applicant through clear and convincing arguments that are supported by evidence.	A clear and relevant case has been made.	An acceptable case has been made by the applicant through information that is generally relevant. While some information is ambiguous, overall a clear picture emerges.	A poor case has been made through claims that are at times ambiguous or irrelevant.	A very poor case has been made with limited information supplied. Any claims made may be inadequate, ambiguous or poorly explained.

No areas of weakness have been identified.	Limited areas of relevant weakness may have been identified.	Some areas of relevant weakness may have been identified.	Significant areas of weakness have been identified.	Critical areas of weakness have been identified.
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Criterion 1: Energy Efficiency and/or Climate Resilience Impact

Describe how effectively the project improves energy efficiency and/or climate resilience for the community sport club facility.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will indicate:

- the expected reduction in energy use or energy bills and/or greenhouse gas emissions for the community sport club facility
- the contribution to climate resilience, for example heat mitigation, water efficiency, weather-resistant infrastructure for the community sport club facility
- measures that future-proof the community sport club facility against emerging climate risks
- the use of demonstrated technologies and materials.

Criterion 2: Community Benefit

Describe how the project will strengthen the community sport club's role in community sport.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will identify:

- how the upgrade will increase access, safety or participation for grassroots and community users
- how cost savings will be reinvested into programs, equipment or participation initiatives in the broader community.

Criterion 3: Project design and Sustainability (for consortium applications that include over \$100,000 for a single project or activity).

Describe whether any design work has been undertaken and what level of design has been completed.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will identify:

- the details of engagement with any consultants, for example:
 - an architect, engineer or builder/Install estimate
- the project proposal, including any architectural drawings / plans and a cost benefit analysis
- how the resources your activity will develop will be maintained and put to use beyond the grant period including responsibilities for ongoing maintenance costs.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Grant Opportunity Guidelines, sample application form and questions and answers.

These documents are found on the [GrantConnect](https://www.grants.gov.au/)¹⁸ website. Any changes to grant documentation and addenda¹⁹ will be published on GrantConnect. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

¹⁸ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

¹⁹ Addenda can include changes to existing grant opportunity documentation and/or publishing additional documents. Changes include but are not limited to corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications and system outage notices.

An example of Commonwealth grant agreement terms and conditions are available of the [Department of Finance](#)²⁰ website.

You can only submit one application for this grant opportunity, whether you are applying individually, or as part of a consortium application. The lead organisation of a consortium application will submit the application on behalf of all members of the consortium application. If more than one application is submitted, only the latest accepted application will progress.

If more than one application is submitted for the same grant project at the same location, or for the same individual community sports club, only the latest accepted application will progress.

To apply, you must:

- complete the online application form on [GrantConnect](#)²¹
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments
- submit your application to the Community Grants Hub by 9:00 pm AEST on 28 July 2026.

We will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by fax or mail.

The application form includes help information. 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](#)²² and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you need more help about the application process, submitting an application online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application after submission, but before the closing date and time, you should contact the Community Grants Hub immediately by email support@communitygrants.gov.au or by visiting the Community Grants Hub's [Contact Us](#)²³ page.

The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing date and time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or something missing, we may ask you for clarification or additional information.

This will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing date and time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

²⁰ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/grants-toolkit>

²¹ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

²² http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cca1995115/sch1.html

²³ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us> **OFFICIAL**

7.1 Attachments to the application

All of the following documents must be attached to your application for it to be considered compliant and for it to proceed to assessment. Templates are provided for your use with the grant opportunity documents as specified.

Individual applicants

- evidence of the project site/facility owner's authority to conduct the project at the nominated site if applicable – Mandatory template provided on GrantConnect.
- evidence of costs for project items and/or activities (for example quote/s)
- evidence of your affiliation with a SSO, SSOD, NSO or NSOD, for example your club's latest affiliation confirmation from the relevant body, a direct web link to your SSO/SSOD/NSO/NSOD where affiliated clubs and associations are listed, or a letter from the SSO/SSOD/NSO/NSOD confirming that you are a recognised or affiliated club.
- Trust deed and any subsequent variations, if applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust.

Consortium applicants

- evidence of the project site/facility owner's authority to conduct the project at the nominated site if applicable **for each site/location within your application**– Mandatory template provided on GrantConnect.
- evidence of costs for project items and/or activities (for example quote/s) – uploaded in the application as one attachment.
- evidence of your affiliation with a SSO, SSOD, NSO or NSOD, for example your club's latest affiliation confirmation from the relevant body, a direct web link to your SSO/SSOD/NSO/NSOD where affiliated clubs and associations are listed, or a letter from the SSO/SSOD/NSO/NSOD confirming that you are a recognised or affiliated club **for each consortium member**
- letter of declaration indicating support from each individual community sports club/s that are members of the consortium – Mandatory template provided on GrantConnect
- Trust deed and any subsequent variations, if applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust.

Your application will be considered non-compliant and will not proceed to assessment if the required attachments are not provided and/or the mandatory templates are not used.

You must attach supporting documentation according to the instructions provided within the application form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments we have not asked for.

Please note: There is a limit for each attachment which is specified in the application form.

7.2 Joint (Consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a consortium to deliver a grant project or projects.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The lead organisation must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 4.1.2 and 4.2.2. The lead organisation must apply on behalf of the other consortium members (project partners) benefitting from the funded activities. Note that under section 4.2.2, all other members of the consortium are required to be eligible entities under the 'individual applicant' requirements listed at section 4.1.1 and section 4.2.1.

Applicants must have formal arrangements in place with all parties of the proposed consortium prior to execution of the grant agreement.

If you are part of a consortium arrangement (either as a lead organisation or project partner) and are eligible to apply, you cannot submit a separate application in the same round. If a consortium is successful in Round 1, all parties will be considered ineligible for Round 2.

Organisations will not be eligible to be members of a consortium arrangement if they are included on the:

- on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- on the non-compliant list.

7.2.1 Small Consortia applications

A minimum of one and a maximum of 10 individual sports clubs can apply under a small consortium application. Each individual sports club can apply for grant funding for a minimum \$25,000.00 to a maximum \$100,000.00. That is, the maximum amount of funding a small consortium with 10 individual sports clubs can apply for, is \$1,000,000.00.

The application must identify all other members of the consortium (project partner/s) and include a letter of declaration which is signed by each of the partner/s on the mandatory template provided.

7.2.2 Large Consortia applications

A minimum of 11 and a maximum of 20 individual sports clubs can apply under a large consortium application.

The minimum and maximum grant funding available per individual applicant as stated in section 3.1 applies to the number of consortium members within a consortia application. The maximum amount of funding a large consortium with 20 individual sports clubs can apply for, is \$2,000,000.00.

7.3 Expected timing for this grant opportunity

You must submit an application between the published opening date and closing date and time.

Late applications

Late applications will not be accepted.

If you are successful, you will be expected to start your grant project around November 2026.

Table 2: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	August 2026
Approval of outcomes of selection process	September 2026
Notification to applicants	October 2026
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	November 2026
Earliest start date of grant activity	December 2026
End date of grant activity	20 April 2028

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, please contact the Community Grants Hub by email support@communitygrants.gov.au or by visiting the Community Grants Hub's [Contact Us](#)²⁴ page.

The Community Grants Hub will respond to emailed questions within 5 working days. The Questions and Answers document will be updated to include answers to questions and addenda will be published on [GrantConnect](#)²⁵.

The question period will close at 5:00 pm AEST on 21 July 2026. Following this time, only questions about using and/or submitting the application form will be answered.

7.4.1 Additional support services and general advice

If you require support for the following services, please contact any program support providers that the department may engage on [insert email] or by visiting [insert website]. These services may include:

- communicating with project location or premises owners, for example local government authority (LGA) staff
- identifying potential third-party co-funders or external financial and capital providers to support your project (for example capital investors, philanthropic organisations, renewable energy solution providers).

The service delivery support provider can provide general advice only and will not be able to provide specific advice on your grant application. There is no requirement to engage with a service delivery support provider in order to submit an application and you do so at your own initiative.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in these Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

The Community Grant Hub will first review all applications for eligibility and compliance against the requirements of the application process. Applicants will be rated as eligible or ineligible, compliant or not compliant. The Grant Opportunity Delegate will provide a final determination on eligibility and/or compliance. Only eligible applications will move to the next stage (assessment).

If eligible and compliant, the Community Grants Hub will then assess your application through an open non-competitive grant process against the assessment criteria (see section 6). We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the assessment criteria
- whether it provides value with relevant money²⁶.

²⁴ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us>

²⁵ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

²⁶ See glossary for an explanation of 'value with relevant money'.

A Selection Advisory Panel convened by the department will review applications and assessment outcomes and make final recommendations to the decision maker as part of the non-competitive selection process.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, the Selection Advisory Panel will have regard to:

- the initial preliminary rating against the assessment criteria
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives of the Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 grant opportunity
- the extent to which the sporting code and geographic location of the application matches identified priorities, in accordance with **Appendix A**.
- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- the needs of the Game on: Teaming up for climate action – Round 1 priority cohorts for the grant opportunity
- the relative value of the grant sought
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals
- the risks, financial, fraud and other, that the applicant or project poses for the department
- the risks that the applicant or project poses for the Commonwealth.

8.2 Financial viability

Consortium applicants applying for \$1 million or more in total funding will be asked in their application to provide financial data from the last 2 full years' profit and loss statements and balance sheets (where available) in order to determine the organisation's financial risk. Based on the risk level, applicants may then be subject to a more in-depth financial viability assessment. You may be requested to provide further information or documentation to support this assessment.

The financial viability assessment can include:

- assessing the financial health of your organisation
- establishing whether you or relevant persons in your organisation (as applicable) have any adverse business history (for example, current or past bankruptcy).

The outcome of the financial viability assessment will be considered when assessing and/or selecting applications.

8.3 Who will assess and select applications?

The Community Grants Hub will use trained assessors to undertake a preliminary assessment of eligible applications against the assessment criteria on behalf of the department. The department may also be involved in undertaking this preliminary assessment. The preliminary assessment will consider applications on their merits and provide a preliminary rating of applications to inform the deliberations of the Selection Advisory Panel. The Selection Advisory Panel will review applications and assessment outcomes and make final recommendations to the decision maker on which applications to approve for a grant.

The Selection Advisory Panel will be established by the department and may include a mix of employees of the department, experts from the sector, and other Commonwealth officers with relevant specialist expertise.

The department may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert/advisor who is not a Commonwealth official will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

The Community Grants Hub may provide secretariat support to the Selection Advisory Panel, but will not participate in deliberations or decision-making. The Community Grants Hub's independent probity advisor will attend all Selection Advisory Panel meetings.

A strategy for any potential conflict of interest that could be identified between the department or external officials and applicants will be in place. If any actual or perceived conflict of interest is identified, the staff member is required to immediately disclose the conflict to the department and take appropriate action. All staff and experts/advisors involved in the assessment process will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest form.

The Selection Advisory Panel may seek clarification from the applicant to assist in making its final recommendations.

8.4 Who will approve grants?

Based on the value of the grant opportunity, and in line with the department Financial Delegations, the Head of Division, Energy Performance Branch will be the decision maker for this grant opportunity. The decision maker decides which grants to approve based on the recommendations of the Selection Advisory Panel, taking into consideration the application priorities to ensure the diversity of communities and sporting codes represented, and any further information that may become known, including the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including the:

- approval of the grant
- grant funding amount to be awarded
- terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will write to you about the outcome of your application. If you are successful, you will be advised of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the program, however if you were awarded funding in Round 1 you will not be considered eligible for Round 2 (this includes all parties involved in a consortium if you are a consortium applicant). If unsuccessful, you should include new or more information in any future application to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1 Feedback on your application

A general feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy access to information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving applications.

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Your grant will be based on the Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement.

Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. The type of grant agreement used and its specific conditions may also be determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the decision maker. We will identify these in the grant agreement.

Whole-of-government grant agreement templates are available on the [Department of Finance](#)²⁷ website.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. You must not start any Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 grant project activities prior to the Activity Start Date.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the decision maker. These are identified in the grant agreement.

We may manage the grant agreement through our [Grant Recipient Portal](#)²⁸. Accepting the agreement through the Grant Recipient Portal is the equivalent of signing a grant agreement. After you have accepted it, we will execute the agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have entered into the grant agreement. We will notify you when this happens and a copy of the executed agreement will be available through the portal. The agreement will not become binding until it is executed.

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

Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement

We will use a Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement.

You will have 20 business days from the date of a written offer to sign and return this grant agreement. The grant agreement is not considered to be executed until both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any changes to make sure they do not affect the grant as approved by the decision maker.

10.2 Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

The Australian Government has a commitment to effectively support cultural change in Australian workplaces and drive improved gender equality outcomes. Requirements have been implemented for fairer and more consistent measures to ensure the Government deals with organisations who comply with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* (the WGE Act).

²⁷ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/grants-toolkit>

²⁸ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grant-recipient-portal>

Applicants may need to satisfy a requirement to be compliant with the WGE Act.

- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are registered with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) and have been issued with a compliance letter are eligible to apply for a grant.
- Applicants with 100 or more employees who are **not** registered with WGEA will need to register to be issued with a compliance letter prior to applying for a grant.
- Applicants with less than 100 employees across their entire structure are not required to submit a report to WGEA; however, you are required to complete the registration form on the login page of the [WGEA Portal](#)²⁹. WGEA will use the details provided in the registration form to issue your organisation with a tender letter, which must be attained prior to applying for a grant.

For your grant application to be deemed compliant:

- your organisation must not be included on the WGEA website on the non-compliant list or
- you must be able to provide your compliance or tender letter to the Community Grants Hub when requested.

If you are unable to provide your compliance or tender letter and appear on the non-compliant list, you will be deemed non-compliant and withdrawn from the grant process.

More information regarding reporting requirements can be found at the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#)³⁰.

10.3 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government has put in place ways to apply certain child safety requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause will be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity
- activities that involve possible contact with children that is irregular or unplanned.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

10.4 Indigenous organisation type classifications

All Australian governments are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their communities, organisations and businesses to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) at the national, state and territory, and local levels. The National

²⁹ <https://client-portal.wgea.gov.au/s/>

³⁰ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/home/reporting-guide>

Agreement identifies 4 priority areas for reform within government. One of these is Priority Reform 2, building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To assist government with improving and reporting on the level of community grant funding going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, changes have been made to the way organisation data is collected. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will now be classified into 3 groups and asked to self-identify which group they fall under. The 3 groups and their definitions are:

Table 3: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation classifications

Organisation	Definition
Group 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are incorporated, not for profit, at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation	These are organisations that are at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and at least 51% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).
Group 3: Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation	These are organisations that are at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned OR at least 50% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled (Board members or equivalent).

10.5 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Government Sanctions in undertaking your grant activity. You must also comply with the specific legislation, policies and industry standards that apply to you and your grant activity, including:

- [Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012](#)³¹ [reporting requirements](#)³²
- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act)
- Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)
- Privacy Act 1988
- Corporations Act 2001
- Archives Act 1083
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999
- Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)
- Grant-Connected Policies; and
- Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

³¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03332/latest/text>

³² <https://www.wgea.gov.au/reporting-guide>

10.6 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make an initial payment at the commencement of the grant agreement (90% of grant funding). We will make a subsequent payment (the remaining 10%) when you submit a satisfactory end of project report and acquittal report. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress.

10.7 Grant payments and GST

GST will be paid for this grant. If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#)³³, where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#)³⁴. If a government related entity is deemed successful, GST will not apply.

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](#)³⁵. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website no later than 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#)³⁶.

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

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

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

You must also inform your Funding Arrangement Manager at the Community Grants Hub of any changes to your:

- organisation name
- ABN
- addresses
- contact person/s
- nominated contact details

³³ <https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/gst-excise-and-indirect-taxes/gst/registering-for-gst>

³⁴ <https://www.ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/recipient-created-tax-invoices>

³⁵ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

³⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

- bank account details.

The details of your Funding Arrangement Manager will be included in your grant agreement.

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

You must notify us of events relating to your grant including at a minimum project commencement and official project opening events and must provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

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

- progress towards achievement of outcomes
- contributions of participants directly related to the grant project (including any co-funding from other sources), if relevant
- expenditure of the grant

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

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

Activity Work Plan

You must submit a completed Activity Work Plan on the template provided by us after execution of the grant agreement. An Activity Work Plan will be used to outline the specific grant requirements. The Activity Work Plan documents planned deliverables, milestones and outputs for the funded project as well as risk management and community engagement relevant to the funded project.

Successful applicants' progress and outcomes against the Activity Work Plan including any compliance requirements will be monitored throughout the grant through 6-monthly Activity Work Plan Reports.

Annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance

You will be required to submit an annual Child Safety Statement of Compliance. This will be a statutory declaration on a form provided by the Hub affirming that that you are compliant with the Child Safe Supplementary Term in your grant agreement.

Ad-hoc reports

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

Final report

When you complete the grant project, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement

- be submitted by the due date and in the format provided in the grant agreement.

12.3 Acquitting your grant

Financial declaration

If you applied as an individual applicant, or as a lead organisation for a consortium with each project valued at or below \$100,000.00, we will ask you to provide a financial declaration. A financial declaration is a certification from the grant recipient stating that funds were spent for the purpose provided as outlined in the grant agreement and in-which the grant recipient is required to declare unspent funds. The financial declaration must be certified by the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or an officer with authority to do so, verifying that the funding has been spent in accordance with the grant agreement.

Underspent funding must be returned to the department.

Non-audited financial acquittal report

If you applied as a lead organisation for a small consortium with a single project valued at over \$100,000.00, we will ask you to provide a non-audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement and declare unspent funds. A non-audited financial acquittal report is an income and expenditure statement from grant recipient stating that grant funding was spent to perform the activity(ies) as set out in the grant agreement. If relevant, the grant recipient must include in the statement the details of any unspent funds. Non-audited financial acquittals must be certified by the Board, Chief Executive Officer or an authorised officer of the organisation.

Underspent funding must be returned to the department.

Audited financial acquittal report

If you applied as a lead organisation for a large consortium application, we will ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement and declare unspent funds.

An independently audited financial acquittal report is a report prepared independent to the grant recipient by a:

- Registered Company Auditor under the Corporations Act 2001
- certified Practising Accountant
- member of the National Institute of Accountants
- member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants
- who is not a principal member, shareholder, officer or employee of the Grantee or a related body corporate.

The report includes an income and expenditure statement, verifying that grant funding was spent to perform the activity(ies) as set out in the grant agreement. It must include details on spending against line item expenditure and, if relevant, detail reasons for any unspent funds. The report is to be accompanied by the audit opinion.

Underspent funding must be returned to the department.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting your Funding Arrangement Manager, Community Grants Hub.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

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

12.6 Record keeping

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

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant program to see how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We, or our service delivery partners, may also ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 grant project funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This Game on: Teaming up for climate action Round 1 grant project received grant funding from the Australian Government.'

13. Probity

The Australian Government 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 by the department. When this happens, the revised guidelines are published via an addendum on the [GrantConnect](#)³⁷ website. By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#)³⁸, noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered 'contracted service providers' [see [NACC fact sheets](#)³⁹].

³⁷ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

³⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2022A00088/latest/text>

³⁹ <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Complaints about the grant process

Complaints about this grant process or the Community Grants Hub's service/s must be made in writing using the [online complaints form](#)⁴⁰ on the [Department of Social Services](#)⁴¹ website, or by contacting the Department of Social Services complaints line.

Phone: 1800 634 035

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: Complaints
GPO Box 9820
Canberra ACT 2601

Complaints about the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water grant opportunity, selection process or grant decisions

Complaints about the grant program, selection process or grant decisions should be addressed to the department in writing by completing the [client feedback form](#)⁴² or via email on GameOn@dcceew.gov.au.

This grant opportunity will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the department. All complaints not specific to this grant opportunity or the Community Grants Hub's service/s (including the selection process and grant decisions) should be addressed to the department in writing by completing the [client feedback form](#)⁴³.

Complaints to the Ombudsman

If you do not agree with the way the Community Grants Hub or department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)⁴⁴. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Community Grants Hub or department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

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

⁴⁰ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/feedback-form>

⁴¹ <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/complaints-page>

⁴² <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/contact/client-feedback>

⁴³ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/contact/client-feedback>

⁴⁴ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

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- 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
- 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
- relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later think there is an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department and the Community Grants Hub in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the [Australian Public Service Code of Conduct \(section 13\(7\)\)](#)⁴⁵ of the [Public Service Act 1999](#)⁴⁶. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the [Community Grants Hub website](#)⁴⁷.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#)⁴⁸ and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#)⁴⁹. This includes letting you know:

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

'Personal information' means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:

- whether the information or opinion is true or not and
- whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and give out information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

⁴⁵ http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_act/psa1999152/s13.html

⁴⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00538/latest/versions>

⁴⁷ <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/conflict-intrest-policy>

⁴⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text>

⁴⁹ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>

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As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4 Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to give out to any person, other than us or our contractors, 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, the Australian 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 keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the 3 conditions below.

1. You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents that the Australian Government has, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#)⁵⁰ (FOI Act).

⁵⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A02562/latest/versions>

The purpose of the FOI Act gives people the ability to get information held by the Australian Government and its organisations. Under the FOI Act, people can ask for documents the Australian Government has. People may not be able to get these documents if these documents need to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons who the information relates to.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Team
 Government and Executive Services Branch
 Department of Social Services
 GPO Box 9820
 Canberra ACT 2601

By email: foi@dss.gov.au

14. Consultation

The department undertook stakeholder engagement with Commonwealth, state and territory sports and infrastructure departments; national sporting organisations; the Australian Local Government Association; and non-government organisations representing smart energy, sports and environment to develop the grant program.

15. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act) ⁵¹ .
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity.
Commonwealth entity	a department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 ⁵² (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.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
co-sponsoring entity	when 2 or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it.
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant.
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.
Funding Arrangement Manager	is the officer responsible for the ongoing management of the grantee and their compliance with the grant agreement.

⁵¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2013A00123/latest/text>

⁵² <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

Term	Definition
grant	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁵³ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund⁵⁴ (CRF) money⁵⁵ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
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 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio Budget Statement program.
GrantConnect ⁵⁶	is 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.
National Redress legislation	means the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 ⁵⁷ .

⁵³ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁵⁴ <https://www.finance.gov.au/about-us/glossary/pgpa/term-consolidated-revenue-fund-crf>

⁵⁵ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

⁵⁶ <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2018A00045/latest/text>

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Term	Definition
Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement ⁵⁸ , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be grant programs. A PBS program may have more than one grant program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Selection Advisory Panel	provides strategic oversight, advice and recommendations to the decision maker on assessed applications from the program specific, service provider composition and service location perspectives.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process involves the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>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 the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ quality of the project proposal and activities ▪ fit for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives ▪ absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved ▪ potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

⁵⁸ <https://budget.gov.au/>

Appendix A. Principles for Distribution by Jurisdiction, Remoteness and Sporting Code

Funding distribution across jurisdictions will take population⁵⁹ into account.

Funding distribution across regional and remote areas, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics⁶⁰ will take population levels into account.

Round 1 funding will be distributed to avoid overconcentrating support within any one sporting code.

More than 50% of total funding will be allocated to priority sporting codes, which have high participation rates or strong community reach. These priority sporting codes are: athletics / track and field, Australian football (AFL), basketball, cricket, football/soccer, golf, gymnastics, netball, rugby league, surf lifesaving, tennis.

Nonpriority sporting codes remain eligible but will receive less than a 50% allocation of total Round 1 funding.

If the round is oversubscribed, applications will be considered in the order of application receipt.

⁵⁹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/jun-2025>

⁶⁰ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/remoteness-structure/remoteness-areas>