



Australian Government

Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science

Department of Infrastructure,  
Regional Development and Cities

**Business**

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## Frequently Asked Questions

# Drought Communities Programme - Extension

## 1. What types of local community infrastructure/facilities/spaces will the programme support?

Examples of local community infrastructure/facilities/spaces include:

- bike paths
- skate parks
- foot paths
- street scapes
- community centres
- health centres
- recreational facilities
- parks
- sporting facilities
- stadiums, arenas
- libraries
- showgrounds
- caravan parks
- men's sheds
- roads.

This list is not exhaustive.

## 2. What types of projects could be undertaken at these local community infrastructure/facilities/spaces?

Example activities to repair, maintain, upgrade, construct and fit-out local community infrastructure/facilities/spaces include:

- lighting upgrades or new lighting
- fencing - around facilities, swimming pools
- solar panels
- drainage and watering systems
- amenities - drinking fountains, BBQs areas, park furniture, shelters, footpath renewal
- sport and recreational facilities - tennis courts, gymnasiums, scoreboards, medical equipment, golf clubs
- kitchen upgrades and/or repairs
- power connections at caravan sites
- improved disability access
- purchase of equipment - computers, televisions, furniture, fixture and fittings
- purchase of vehicles and trailers for community transport services, surf lifesaving, medical
- purchase of equipment for local State Emergency Service
- foot path renewal and beautification.

This list is not exhaustive.

Projects are expected to lead to the employment of locals.



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### **3. What types of community events are supported under the programme?**

A community event brings the community together in some way. For this programme the emphasis is around how locals will benefit from the event especially through employment opportunities and supporting mental health.

### **4. Can an eligible council work together with another eligible council to complete a project?**

Yes. Provided both councils are eligible for the program. Each council would submit a separate application and reference the other council/s in their application. A project could be undertaken in partnership where each council would specify in their application their role in the project and their requested funding. If successful, each council would be contracted separately and required to report on their project.

The guidelines do not allow for joint applications (i.e. one application from multiple councils).

### **5. Are councils required to follow standard tendering and procurement processes?**

Yes. Councils are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations under this programme.

If the project requires a tender process to be completed, councils must adhere to that process. The timing available for the programme may restrict the types of projects that can be submitted.

### **6. Can councils replenish water tanks on private properties for human consumption?**

No. Projects under this program are to provide relief and benefits to the wider community, not just individuals. Councils seeking funding for water carting or other water related projects would need to devise a strategy to allow the whole community to benefit - for example, a plan to allow a group of community members to replenish their water tanks.

### **7. Can councils establish new and/or expand bore holes on public properties?**

Yes. This activity would be considered eligible. The bores holes would provide a benefit to the local community and locals/contractors can be employment and equipment sourced from local businesses to complete the work. An example would be the construction of a new bore water hole for the local park's amenities block.

### **8. Can councils use the grant funding to refurbish and/or revamp shop fronts located in the main town centre with the work being carried out by local workers?**

Yes. This would be eligible. This project would lead to the employment of local people in the area and could encourage more visitors to the town to contribute to the economic activity of the region.



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**9. Can grant funds be used towards an Undergraduate Scholarship Programme? For example, targeting talented students from rural / farm backgrounds who otherwise will not be able to pursue their academic studies as a consequence of the drought.**

Maybe. This activity does not meet project requirements unless it: leads to the employment of locals, contributes to the economic activity of the community, and/or leads to the retention of businesses, services and facilities. Councils would need to put forward a detailed description as to how the project benefits the broader community.

**10. What is covered in the definition “community facilities”, would employee or community housing be classed a community facilities? For example, a remote council that provides housing to in order to attract new employees or provide community housing for rent to community members.**

No. This activity does not meet project requirements unless it: leads to the employment of locals, contributes to the economic activity of the community, and/or leads to the retention of businesses, services and facilities.

The programme will not fund the purchase of existing buildings. The programme will not fund projects that benefit the council and not the community.

**11. The impact of the drought has caused additional sedimentation loads resulting in water treatment issues, with existing filtration equipment being unable to cope. Would a project to improve the filtration process be considered eligible?**

Maybe. Councils would need to put forward a detailed description on how the project benefits the broader community. This activity does not meet project requirements unless it; leads to employment of locals, contribute to the economic activity of the community, and/or lead to the retention of businesses, services and facilities.

**12. Can councils, through a planned community initiative, provide `voucher/gift cards' to spend within the local region? These programs allow cards (e.g. eftpos or other types of cards) to be loaded with funds and then utilised solely within the local community/shire?**

No. The intent of the Drought Communities Programme - Extension is to support local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects.

Support of this type (vouchers/gift cards) for communities impacted by drought is being delivered through the Drought Community Support Initiative Programme. More information can be found [here](#).

**13. Can councils provide funding to the local community to subsidise payment of council and water rates?**

No. Providing rate relief is not eligible under the programme. The intent of the programme is to provide funding for projects expected to: lead to the employment of locals, contribute to the economic activity of communities/regions, or lead to the retention of business, services and facilities.



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