



## Grant Opportunity Guidelines

# Gas Acceleration Program Round 1

<b>Opening date:</b>	15 January 2018
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	17.00 AEDT on 13 February 2018
<b>Commonwealth policy entity:</b>	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
<b>Administering entity</b>	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
<b>Enquiries:</b>	If you have any questions, contact us at <a href="http://business.gov.au">business.gov.au</a> .
<b>Date guidelines released:</b>	19 December 2017
<b>Type of grant opportunity:</b>	Open competitive

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# 1. Gas Acceleration Program: Round 1 processes

## **The Gas Acceleration Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives**

This grant opportunity is part of the above program, which contributes to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's Outcome 1: Enabling growth and productivity for globally competitive industries through supporting science and commercialisation, growing business investment and improving business capability and streamlining regulation. The department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines*.



## **The grant opportunity opens**

We publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and GrantConnect



## **You complete and submit a grant application**



## **We assess all grant applications**

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria.  
An advisory committee will assess eligible applications against the merit criteria including an overall consideration of value with relevant money and compare it to other eligible applications.



## **We make grant recommendations**

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



## **Grant decisions are made**

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



## **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 program**

We evaluate the specific grant activity and the program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

## 2. About the grant program

The Gas Acceleration Program (the program) aims to accelerate the responsible development of onshore gas for domestic gas consumers. The program will encourage direct investment in natural gas (gas) developments. The program will support projects with the greatest likelihood of securing new and significant volumes of gas for domestic gas consumers located in target markets (e.g. the east coast gas market), from onshore gas fields by 30 June 2020.

The objective of the program is to:

- increase gas supply to domestic gas consumers located in target markets by assisting businesses to stimulate investment in a diverse range of projects from competing gas producers.

The intended outcome of the program is:

- to address potential gas supply shortfalls in target markets, and encourage the accelerated development of onshore gas resources.

We administer the program according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)<sup>1</sup>.

These guidelines contain information for the Gas Acceleration Program Round 1 grant opportunity.

This document sets out:

- the eligibility and merit criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) is responsible for administering this grant opportunity.

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in Appendix A.

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

### 2.1. Grant amount and grant period

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$26 million over 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20) for the program.

## 3. Grants available

Note that:

- the grant amount will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project cost
- there is no minimum grant amount
- the maximum grant amount is \$6 million
- no more than 50 per cent of your total eligible project costs can be funded from Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government grants.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>

### 3.1. Project duration

There is no limit to your project's duration, as long as it provides new gas flow to domestic gas consumers in target markets by 30 June 2020. However, eligible expenditure can only be incurred up to 30 June 2020 (see Appendix B).

## 4. Eligibility criteria

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

### 4.1. Who is eligible?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be non-tax-exempt
- be registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- be a company incorporated in Australia and a trading corporation, where your trading activities:
  - form a sufficiently significant proportion of the corporation's overall activities as to merit it being described as a trading corporation; or
  - are a substantial and not merely peripheral activity of the corporation.

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply. For further information on joint applications, refer to section 7.3.

### 4.2. Additional eligibility requirements

We can only accept applications:

- where you can provide evidence from your board (or chief executive officer or equivalent if there is no board) that the project is supported, and that you can complete the project and meet the costs of the project not covered by grant funding. You must use the template available on [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au)
- where you can provide evidence of how you will provide your share of project costs through an Accountant Declaration. You must use the Accountant Declaration form available on [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au).

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

### 4.3. Who is not eligible?

You are not eligible to apply if:

- you are income tax exempt
- you are an individual
- you are a partnership
- you are a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust where it meets the eligibility requirements set out above)
- you are a Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government body (including government business enterprises).

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another Commonwealth government grant. You can apply for a grant for your project under more than one Commonwealth program, but if your

application is successful, you must choose either the program grant or the other Commonwealth grant.

## 5. Eligible grant activities

### 5.1. Eligible projects

To be eligible your project must:

- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- provide new gas flow to domestic gas consumers in target markets by 30 June 2020.

### 5.2. Ineligible projects

Your project is ineligible if it:

- is unlawful (e.g. if the project's activities would not be allowed under a relevant state government ban and/or moratorium)
- will be unable to provide new gas flow to domestic gas consumers in target markets by 30 June 2020
- relates to the extraction of gas located offshore
- is pre-competitive geoscience.

### 5.3. Eligible activities

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and bring new gas flow to domestic gas consumers in target markets by 30 June 2020 and can include:

- deployment of new technologies or techniques to lift existing and new well productivity
- the opening of new gas pilot and/or production or exploration wells that are either in proximity to existing gas infrastructure or can demonstrate a path to market
- better utilisation of existing or the establishment of new gas processing, storage and transport facilities
- design, construction and engineering activities directly related to bringing forward new gas supply.

We may also approve other activities.

### 5.4. Ineligible Activities

Activities that primarily address the gas industry's social licence to operate are ineligible.

### 5.5. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend grant funds on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

- For guidelines on eligible expenditure, see appendix B.
- For guidelines on ineligible expenditure, see appendix C.

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

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred by you for required project audit activities.

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

The earliest date you can start your project and incur eligible expenditure is the date of your letter of offer. If you choose to start your project before you enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth, you do so at your own risk.

## 6. The merit criteria you need to address

To be competitive, you will need to address all merit criteria in your application. We will assess your application against each merit criterion using the weighting indicated.

The application form asks questions that relate to the merit criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide evidence to support your answers. The application form displays size limits for answers.

We will only award funding to applications that score highly against all merit criteria, as these represent best value for money.

### 6.1. Merit criterion 1

#### **The extent to which your project contributes to the objectives of the program to increase and/or accelerate the supply of gas to domestic gas consumers in target markets (40 points)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. how your project will increase the supply of gas to domestic gas consumers in target market(s) by 30 June 2020
- b. the amount of gas that you expect to supply to target market(s) and the timeframe for supplying it as a result of the project. Provide annual estimates of the amount of gas you expect to supply to the target market(s) for the first 5 years and/or over the project's life.
- c. the total average cost to the producer per petajoule of gas to be supplied to the target market as a result of the project
- d. the level of technical risk associated with the project and how these risks will be mitigated
- e. your plan to manage and fund any additional activities beyond the scope of the project that you will need to undertake to supply gas to market
- f. how the project creates potential for more investment and expansion activity in gas supply including any productivity improvements and applications across the industry.

### 6.2. Merit criterion 2

#### **The commercial potential of the project (25 points)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:



- a. the business case for the project including any expected project benefits
- b. your plan to access the market including your plans to address any market entry barriers, any supply or other collaborative agreements and how you will leverage any existing commercial arrangements or put in place new commercial arrangements
- c. how you will manage any commercial risks.

### 6.3. Merit criterion 3

#### **Your capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (20 points)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. your track record managing similar projects and access to personnel with the right skills and experience, including management and technical staff
- b. your access, or future access to, any infrastructure, capital equipment, technology, intellectual property and required regulatory or other approvals
- c. a credible project plan and budget.

### 6.4. Merit criterion 4

#### **The impact of grant funding on your project (15 points)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. the likelihood that your project would not proceed without the grant and how the grant will positively impact your project in terms of size, scale, timing, return on investment and project payback period
- b. the total additional investment the grant will leverage.

## 7. How to apply

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

You can only submit an application during a funding round.

To apply, you must:

- complete the online [program application form](#) on business.gov.au
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and merit criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

When you submit your online application, we will provide you with an automated receipt number and a link. The link goes to a page where you can enter your email address to receive acknowledgment and a copy of your complete application.

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 1995 (Cth)*. If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to

accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

If you need further guidance around the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

### 7.1. Attachments to the application

We require the following documents with your application:

- project plan as requested under merit criterion 3
- budget plan as requested under merit criterion 3
- accountant declaration (template provided on business.gov.au)
- evidence of support from the board, CEO or equivalent (template provided on business.gov.au)
- trust deed (where applicable)

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

### 7.2. Timing of grant opportunity

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot accept late applications

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your project in March 2018.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	1 week
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	1 week
Earliest start date	The date of your letter of offer
End date of grant commitment	30 June 2020

### 7.3. Joint applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join as a group to deliver a project. In these circumstances, you must appoint a lead organisation that meets the eligibility criteria. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application should identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the project partners. Each letter of support should include:

- details of the project partner
- details of the formal arrangement in place with the project partner
- an overview of how the project partner will work with the lead organisation and any other project partners in the group to successfully complete the project
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the project partner will bring to the group

- the roles/responsibilities the project partner will undertake, and the resources it will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties.

## 8. The selection process

We first assess your application against the eligibility criteria and then against the merit criteria. Only eligible applications will proceed to the merit assessment stage.

We will establish an advisory committee (the committee) to assess applications. The committee may comprise representatives from:

- the Australian Government
- selected State and Territory Governments
- Geoscience Australia
- CSIRO
- other independent technical experts.

The committee will assess your application against the merit criteria and compare it to other eligible applications in a funding round before recommending which projects to fund.

To recommend an application for funding it must score highly against each merit criterion. While we assess all applications against the same merit criteria, we will score your application relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. The evidence you provide to support your application should be proportional to the size and complexity of your project.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, we may contact you to correct or clarify the errors, but you cannot make any material alteration or addition.

### 8.1. Final decision

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of the committee and the availability of grant funds.

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

- approval of applications for funding
- amount of grant funding awarded
- terms and conditions of funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

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

## 9. Notification of application outcomes

If you are successful, you will receive a written offer, including any specific conditions attached to the grant.

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

## 10. If your application is successful

### 10.1. Grant agreement

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au).

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur before a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your project before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk.

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

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

### 10.2. Standard grant agreement

We will use a standard grant agreement for all projects.

You will have 21 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means 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. We will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the project as approved by the Program Delegate.

### 10.3. Project specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations. Wherever the government funds building and construction activities, the following special regulatory requirements may apply.

- *Code for the Tendering and Performance of Building Work 2016*<sup>2</sup> ([Building Code 2016](#))
- Australian Government Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme<sup>3</sup> ([WHS Scheme](#))

To be eligible, you must declare in your application that you comply with these requirements. You will need to declare you can meet these requirements in your grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

### 10.4. Building Code

The Building Code is administered by relevant State and Territory administrations under relevant State or Territory legislation on behalf of the Fair Work Building and Construction.<sup>4</sup>

The Building Code applies to all construction projects funded by the Australian Government through grants and other programs where:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.abcc.gov.au/building-code/building-code-2016>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fsc.gov.au/sites/fsc/needaccredited/accreditationscheme/pages/theaccreditationscheme>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.abcc.gov.au/>

- the value of Australian Government contribution to a project is at least \$5 million and represents at least 50 per cent of the total construction project value; or
- regardless of the proportion of Australian Government funding, where the Australian Government contribution to a project is \$10 million or more.

## 10.5. WHS Scheme

The WHS Scheme is administered by the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner<sup>5</sup>.

The Scheme applies to projects that are directly or indirectly funded by the Australian Government where

- the value of the Australian Government contribution to the project is at least \$6 million and represents at least 50 per cent of the total construction project value; or
- the Australian Government contribution to a project is \$10 million (GST inclusive) or more, irrespective of the proportion of Australian Government funding; and
- a head contract under the project includes building work of \$4 million or more (GST Inclusive).

## 10.6. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any financial contribution provided by you or a third party

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 on execution of the grant agreement. We will make subsequent payments in arrears as you achieve milestones, based on your actual eligible expenditure. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

We set aside a minimum of 5 per cent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when you submit a satisfactory final report demonstrating you have completed outstanding obligations for the project. We may need to adjust your progress payments to align with available program funds across financial years and/or to ensure we retain a minimum of 5 per cent of grant funding for the final payment.

## 10.7. How we monitor your project

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. You will also be able to download them from [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au). We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of participants directly related to the project.

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

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fsc.gov.au/sites/FSC>

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

## 10.8. Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include details of your progress towards completion of agreed project activities
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include agreed evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant project activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any project or milestone reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

## 10.9. Final report

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

Final reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- be submitted by the report due date
- be in the format provided in the grant agreement.

## 10.10. Ad-hoc report

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

## 10.11. Independent audit report

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

## 10.12. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

## 10.13. Grant agreement variations

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

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project provided this does not extend beyond 30 June 2020

- changing project activities.

Note the program does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the grant agreement end date. We can provide you with a variation request template.

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

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

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

#### 10.14. Keeping us informed

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

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

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

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

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

#### 10.15. Evaluation

We will evaluate the program to determine the extent to which the funded activity is contributing to the program objectives and outcomes. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or 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 project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

#### 10.16. Tax obligations

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), we will add GST to your grant payment where applicable and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period.

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

### 10.17. Grant acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

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

If you erect signage in relation to the project, the signage must contain an acknowledgement of the grant.

## 11. Conflicts of interest

### 11.1. Your conflict of interest responsibilities

A conflict of interest will occur if your private interests conflict with your obligations under the grant. Conflicts of interest could affect the awarding or performance of your grant. A conflict of interest can be:

- real (or actual)
- apparent (or perceived)
- potential.

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

If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your grant, you must inform us in writing immediately.

### 11.2. Our conflict of interest responsibilities

We recognise that conflicts of interest may arise with our staff, technical experts, committee members and others delivering the program between:

- their program duties, roles and responsibilities and
- their private interests.

We manage our conflicts of interest according to the APS Code of Conduct (section 13 (7) of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth)). We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)<sup>6</sup> on the department's website.

Program officials must declare any conflicts of interest. If we consider a conflict of interest is a cause for concern, that official will not take part in the assessment of relevant applications under the program.

## 12. How we use your information

Unless the information you provide to us is:

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<https://www.industry.gov.au/AboutUs/InformationPublicationScheme/Ourpolicies/Documents/Conflict-of-Interest-and-Inside-Trade-Expectations-Policy.pdf>



- confidential information as per 12.1, or
- personal information as per 12.3,

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

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

### 12.1. How we handle your confidential information

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

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

### 12.2. When we may disclose confidential information

We may disclose confidential information:

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

We may also disclose confidential information if:

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

### 12.3. How we use your personal information

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

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

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

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

We, or the Minister, may:

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

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)<sup>7</sup> on the department's website for more information on:

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

#### 12.4. Public announcement

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect and business.gov.au. We are required to do this by the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* and the [Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement](#)<sup>8</sup>, unless otherwise prohibited by law. This information may include:

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

We publish this information to ensure open access to non-sensitive data within Australian Government agencies to enable greater innovation and productivity across all sectors of the Australian economy.

#### 12.5. Freedom of information

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

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

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

### 13. Enquiries and feedback

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

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.industry.gov.au/Pages/PrivacyPolicy.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.dpmc.gov.au/resource-centre/data/australian-government-public-data-policy-statement>

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

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

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

Head of Division  
AusIndustry - Business Services  
Department of Industry, Innovation and Science  
GPO Box 2013  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman<sup>9</sup>](#) with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

## Appendix A. Definitions of key terms

Term	Definition
Application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
AusIndustry	The division of the same name within the department.
Committee	The body established to consider and assess eligible applications and make recommendations to the decision maker for funding under the program.
Department	The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
Domestic gas consumers	Natural gas consumers located in Australia, excluding LNG projects.
Domestic gas market	A collection of natural gas buyers and sellers in Australia that are interconnected by infrastructure that allows market participants to trade gas.
Eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.3.
East coast gas market	The domestic gas market covering Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania.
Eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
Eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.4.
Eligible expenditure guidelines	The guidelines that are at Appendix B.
Grant agreement	A legally binding contract between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding
Grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
Grantee	The recipient of grant funding under a grant agreement.
Guidelines	Guidelines that the Minister gives to the department to provide the framework for the administration of the program, as in force from time to time.
Minister	The Australian Government Minister for Resources and Northern Australia.
Non-tax-exempt	Not exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth) or under Division 1AB of Part III of the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth).

Term	Definition
Personal information	<p>Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:</p> <p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and</li> <li>b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.</li> </ol>
Program Delegate	An AusIndustry general manager within the department with responsibility for the program.
Program funding or Program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
Project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
Target consumers	Domestic gas consumers who are affected by a forecast tight supply-demand balance, and who would experience a material benefit from additional natural gas becoming available.
Target market	<p>A domestic gas market containing a substantial number of target consumers.</p> <p>The east coast market would be an example of a target market. This is because both the ACCC and AEMO forecast a tight supply-demand balance; and the ACCC has identified that the forecast tight supply-demand balance affects a substantial number of consumers in this market, and that additional gas would help to alleviate unfavourable market conditions for these consumers.</p>

## Appendix B. Eligible expenditure

This section provides guidelines on the eligibility of expenditure. We may update these guidelines from time to time, so you should make sure you have the current version from the [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) website before preparing your application.

The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be incurred by you within the project period
- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred by you to undertake required project audit activities
- meet the eligible expenditure guidelines.

### How we verify eligible expenditure

If your application is successful, we will ask you to verify the project budget that you provided in your application when we negotiate your grant agreement. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

The grant agreement will include details of the evidence you may need to provide when you achieve certain milestones in your project. This may include evidence related to eligible expenditure.

If requested, you will need to provide the agreed evidence along with your progress reports.

You must keep payment records of all eligible expenditure, and be able to explain how the costs relate to the agreed project activities. At any time, we may ask you to provide records of the expenditure you have paid. If you do not provide these records when requested, the expense may not qualify as eligible expenditure.

At the end of the project, you will be required to provide an independent financial audit of all eligible expenditure from the project.

### Eligible expenditure can include

- plant and equipment
- contractor costs
- overseas expenditure
- other expenditure as outlined below.

### Plant and equipment expenditure

We consider costs of designing, engineering, acquiring, or construction of, plant and equipment, as well as any related commissioning costs as eligible expenditure. You must list commissioning costs as a separate item within the project budget in the application form, and on reports of expenditure during project milestones.

We cannot consider any expenditure paid before the project start date as eligible expenditure. Commissioning and installation costs of plant and equipment paid for before the start date is not eligible expenditure even if these costs are paid after the project start date.

You may purchase, lease (finance lease or operating lease under certain conditions) or build plant and equipment. In claiming the purchase price of capital items, you must take out any costs related to financing, including interest. You can claim related freight and installation costs on capital expenditure.

Eligible costs for plant and equipment will normally need to be on your balance sheet.

We will only consider costs for plant and equipment not on your balance sheet under certain circumstances. We will only consider project costs with an operating lease to be eligible if:

- the plant or equipment is critical to your project; and
- you cannot transfer the plant or equipment and the lease period is at least 4 years.

Where you need to pay in instalments to purchase capital items (for example deposits, payment on installation, or payment on commissioning), you can claim the grant amount for the items progressively across multiple progress reports up to the end of the project period. Alternatively, you can choose to claim the full amount in a single report, when you pay for the capital item.

For leased items, you will need to show an executed copy of the lease identifying the capital cost of the item and the lease period. We can pay you the full grant entitlement when:

- you have received the capital item
- you have entered into a formal lease agreement, and
- you make the initial payment.

You may show expenditure on plant and equipment by providing evidence of

- purchase price
- payments (e.g. tax invoices and receipts from suppliers confirming payment)
- commitment to pay for the capital item (e.g. supplier contract, purchase order or executed lease agreement)
- receipt of capital items (e.g. supplier or freight documents)
- associated costs such as freight and installation (e.g. supplier documents)
- the capital item on your premises (e.g. date stamped photographic evidence).

If you claim expenditure for the construction of plant and equipment, we limit this to

- the costs of materials
- contractor costs
- freight and establishment costs.

Evidence for construction expenditure may include purchase orders, invoices, payment documentation, photographic evidence (date stamped) of the capital item in your premises.

Grant payments for capital items may affect your tax obligations. We recommend that you seek independent professional advice on tax related matters.

## Contract expenditure

Eligible contract expenditure is the cost of any agreed project activities that you contract others to do. These can include contracting:

- another organisation
- an individual who is not an employee, but engaged under a separate contract.

All contractors must have a written contract prior to starting any project work—for example, a formal agreement, letter or purchase order which specifies:

- the nature of the work they perform
- the applicable fees, charges and other costs payable.

Invoices from contractors must contain:

- a detailed description of the nature of the work
- the hours and hourly rates involved
- any specific plant expenses paid.

Invoices must directly relate to the agreed project, and the work must qualify as an eligible expense. The costs must also be reasonable and appropriate for the activities performed.

We will require evidence of contractor expenditure that may include:

- an exchange of letters (including email) setting out the terms and conditions of the proposed contract work
- purchase orders
- supply agreements
- invoices and payment documents.

You must ensure all project contractors keep a record of the costs of their work on the project. We may require you to provide a contractor's records of their costs of doing project work. If you cannot provide these records, the relevant contract expense may not qualify as eligible expenditure.

## Overseas expenditure

Any overseas expenditure must be essential for the project.

We will consider value for money when determining whether the cost of overseas expenditure is eligible. This may depend on

- the proportion of total grant funding that you will spend on overseas expenditure
- the proportion of the service providers total fee that will be spent on overseas expenditure
- how the overseas expenditure is likely to aid the project in meeting the program objectives.

Eligible overseas activities expenditure is generally limited to 10 per cent of total eligible expenditure.

## Other eligible expenditure

Other eligible expenditures for the project may include:

- building modifications where you own the modified asset and the modification is required to undertake the project, for example installing a clean room. Modifications to leased buildings may be eligible. You must use the leased building for activities related to your extraction process
- staff training that directly supports the achievement of project outcomes
- financial auditing of project expenditure
- costs you incur in order to obtain planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals during the project period. However, associated fees paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments are not eligible



- contingency costs up to a maximum of 10% of the eligible project costs. Note that we make payments based on actual costs incurred

Other specific expenditures may be eligible as determined by the Program Delegate.

Evidence you need to supply can include supplier contracts, purchase orders, invoices and supplier confirmation of payments.

## Appendix C. Ineligible expenditure

This section provides guidelines on what we consider ineligible expenditure. We may update these guidelines from time to time, so you should make sure you have the current version from the [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) website before preparing your application.

The Program Delegate may impose limitations or exclude expenditure, or further include some ineligible expenditure listed in these guidelines in a grant agreement or otherwise by notice to you.

Examples of ineligible expenditure include:

- labour costs of employees. We consider a person an employee when you pay them a regular salary or wage, out of which you make regular tax instalment deductions
- travel costs
- research not directly supporting eligible activities
- activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources
- costs incurred prior to us notifying you that the application is eligible and complete
- any in-kind contributions
- financing costs, including interest
- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers
- costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project)
- costs such as rental, renovations and utilities
- non-project-related staff training and development costs
- insurance costs (the participants must effect and maintain adequate insurance or similar coverage for any liability arising as a result of its participation in funded activities)
- debt financing
- costs related to obtaining resources used on the project, including interest on loans, job advertising and recruiting, and contract negotiations
- maintenance costs
- costs of purchasing, leasing, depreciation of, or development of land
- infrastructure development costs, including development of road, rail, port or fuel delivery networks beyond delivering gas to domestic gas consumers in target markets
- site preparation activities which are not directly related to, or for, the main purpose of delivering gas to domestic gas consumers in target markets
- opportunity costs relating to any production losses due to allocating resources to the agreed grant project
- routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, office computing facilities, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges
- 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

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where we decide that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or that they are contrary to the objective of the program.

You must ensure you have adequate funds to meet the costs of any ineligible expenditure associated with the project.