DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Queensland Government



Indigenous Cape Communities Economic Development Fund

Project Guidelines

Version 01 20 April 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country. We recognise the ongoing spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with land, water, sea and sky. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past and present, support future leaders and acknowledge First Nations People's right to self-determination.

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Introduction



The Queensland Government recognises indigenous local governments provide a unique perspective on what services are required in their communities and is committed to empowering indigenous councils to deliver locally for their regions.
During the 2024 election, the Government committed $2 million to Indigenous councils in the Cape York region to undertake community development projects that will benefit the people in these communities.
The Indigenous Cape Communities Economic Development Fund (ICCEDF) has been developed to implement this commitment and will provide funding support to the 11 Indigenous councils.
The program is administered by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (the department).

Key dates and information

Policy Agency	Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers
Administration Agency	Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers
Program Budget	$2 million
Program Type	Targeted, non-competitive, allocation-based
Eligible Recipients	Indigenous councils in Cape York
Release of program	April 2026
Final date for completion of projects	30 June 2027
Final date for acquittal of grant funds	31 July 2027

1. Program aim

The Indigenous Cape Communities Economic Development Fund (ICCEDF) aims to support delivery of local projects that enhance economic development in Indigenous cape communities.

2. Funding details

- A total funding pool of $2 million will be allocated to eligible councils.
- Funding allocations are based on a methodology that considers the main factors impacting the costs of service delivery in Indigenous councils.
- Population, remoteness and dispersion, and the potential of each council to raise revenue are considered in the allocation model.

3. Eligibility Criteria

3.1 Eligible grant recipients

Councils eligible for funding under the ICCEDF are:

- Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
- Northern Peninsula Area Regional
- Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- Torres Strait Island Regional Council
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

3.2 Eligible projects

- Funds must be expended on projects which aim to achieve economic development goals in the areas of:
    - Workforce and business support
    - Infrastructure development to support local businesses
    - Community or cultural initiatives
    - Attracting investment

  Examples of eligible projects may be found in **Appendix A**.
- Projects to deliver infrastructure or other fixed assets must be undertaken on land owned or controlled by the council, and within the council's prescribed local government area.
- Any resulting assets must be owned or controlled by the council.
- Projects must not have commenced prior to execution of a Project Funding Schedule with the State.

3.3 Ineligible costs

- Non-council programs and community activities (e.g. funding used to subsidise a privately owned or operated business)
- Other costs at the department's discretion.

4. General funding conditions

4.1 How to access funding

There is no requirement to apply for funding under the ICCEDF. Each eligible council will receive an approved funding allocation, payable upon execution of the Project Funding Agreement.

4.2 Project Funding Agreement

a) A Head Funding Agreement (HFA) has been executed between the eligible councils and the State that sets out the general arrangements of state grant funding.

b) A Project Funding Schedule (PFS) will be issued to each eligible council for acceptance upon release of the program.

c) Together with these guidelines, both the HFA and the PFS comprise the Project Funding Agreement.

The State has no obligation to provide program funding to a council until the Project Funding Schedule is fully executed. Councils should not make any financial commitments until all necessary documents have been finalised and executed.

4.3 Payment schedule

The department will pay 100 per cent of approved allocations as soon as possible following execution of the PFS. Payments will be made by electronic transfer.

4.4 Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Provision of grant funding to local governments is not considered a taxable supply and therefore Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not applicable.

4.5 Funding acknowledgement

All grant recipients who receive funding from programs administered by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers are required to acknowledge the funding provided by the Queensland Government.

Recipients of ICCEDF funding are required to acknowledge the Queensland Government's funding support in any materials developed or published in relation to the project, through the inclusion of the following acknowledgement statement and, where appropriate, the Queensland Government Coat of Arms.

> *The (insert project name) is proudly funded/supported through the Queensland Government's [xxx] program.*

Please contact the Grants and Program Management team at LGDgrants@dlgwv.qld.gov.au for more information and/or image files.

5. Reporting and funds acquittal

- No progress reporting is required for this program.
- Councils must acknowledge the State's funding contribution to their projects in accordance with the guideline funding acknowledgement requirements (PDF, 1MB)
- Funds must be acquitted by 31 July 2027 by:
  - Submission of a Project Completion Report, properly certified by the Chief Executive Officer or authorised delegate, and lodged and approved by the department via the eGrant portal.
  - Submission to the department of proof of expenditure indicating funds were expended on eligible costs in the delivery of the project(s).

6. Enquiries

Councils can obtain further information by contacting the Grants and Program Management team at lgdgrants@dlgwv.qld.gov.au or by visiting https://localgovernment.qld.gov.au.

Appendix A Examples of eligible projects

Workforce and business support

- Delivery of job training or skills development programs
- Creation of innovation or manufacturing hubs to foster new businesses
- Youth mentoring and leadership development programs.

Infrastructure development to support local businesses

- Improvements to telecommunications networks
- Upgrade of transport infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges)
- Projects to promote sustainable tourism
- Projects to improve climate resilience (e.g. flood levy to protect businesses and homes).

Community or cultural initiatives

- Indigenous site/tradition preservation, management or educational programs
- Environmental monitoring, conservation or restoration
- Waste management and recycling initiatives.

Attracting investment

- Development of commercial/industrial parks to house new businesses
- Development of recycling facilities
- Installation or upgrade of CCTV or other community safety infrastructure.

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