Indigenous Cape Communities Economic Development Fund Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Indigenous Cape Communities Economic Development Fund?

This Fund is a $2 million Queensland Government election commitment to support Indigenous councils in the state electorate of Cook with funding for community development projects that benefit local communities. The program is administered by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (the department).

Who is eligible?

Queensland has 16 Indigenous councils, with 10 located in the Cook state electorate. Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, near Cook, is also eligible, making a total of 11 eligible councils. The following councils are eligible:

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

How is funding allocated?

Funding allocations are determined through a methodology, which considers factors such as population, remoteness and dispersion, average operating costs, and revenue-generating capacity. This methodology is applied to the exiting Indigenous Council Funding Program, a recurring initiative administered by the department.

What type of projects can councils do?

Eligible projects include:

- Workforce and business support initiatives (e.g., job training, skills development, innovation hubs).
- Infrastructure development to support local businesses (e.g., transport upgrades, sustainable tourism projects).
- Community or cultural initiatives (e.g., Indigenous site preservation, environmental conservation).
- Projects to attract investment (e.g., development of commercial/industrial parks, recycling facilities).

Do councils need to apply for funding?

No, there is no application required.

When will the Project Funding Schedule be available?

The department will provide councils with the Project Funding Schedule by 8 May 2026.

When will the funding be paid?

The department will pay 100% of the approved funding allocation as soon as possible after the Project Funding Schedule is executed by both the council and department.

Do I need to acknowledge the Queensland Government?

Yes, the acknowledgement of the Queensland Government's funding support is required, please refer to the department website for guidance.

Are councils required to submit progress reports?

No progress reporting is required for this program. However, officers from the department may contact councils to ascertain project deliverables.

What is required for funds acquittal?

Councils must submit a Project Completion Report and proof of expenditure to the department by 31 July 2027.

Who can I contact about the fund?

Councils can contact the department at LGDgrants@dlgwv.qld.gov.au or their local Regional Advisor.