

Tips and FAQs for Round 2

Building Resilience to Climate Change

Tips

Competition in Round 1 was high with many good applications. To distinguish your application, consider how your project compares to the assessment criteria.

Building adaptive capacity

- Does your project trial something new to your council or NSW Local Government? Projects that fund 'business as usual' are unlikely to be competitive.
- Cross-divisional project teams or steering committees are a great way to transfer knowledge and build capacity.

Level of Support

- Is senior management involved in your project and how?
- Does the project involve external organisations?
- Is the project contributing to Council's Operational Plan, Delivery Program or Community Strategic Plan?

Project Planning

- What activities will you undertake? This does not need to be detailed project planning, however it should include the major steps to achieve the project objectives.
- How will you know you have succeeded? Be precise about what outcome your project will deliver and what steps you will take to reach that outcome.
- Be sure to include measures for both progress and success.

Value for money

- Cash contributions and in-kind support, while not a requirement, will strengthen your proposal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is climate change risk or vulnerability?

A climate change risk is not the same as a climate change impact (e.g. increasing temperatures). A climate change risk is how climate changes (or combinations of changes) create impacts that affect the ability of your council to meet its objectives (e.g. faster deterioration of roads due to higher temperature). A climate change risk assessment process will identify your climate change risks. Similarly, climate change vulnerability is determined through a process that assesses potential climate impacts and capacity of a region or system to respond.

What sort of projects are we looking for?

These grants recognise that there has been a lot of work undertaken at the Local Government level to identify climate change risks or vulnerabilities to council assets and operations. The BRCC grants are to support NSW Local Government to implement projects and programs that have been identified to address these risks or vulnerabilities. Round 2 focuses on projects that build resilience to water supply and/or quality or adapt priority infrastructure.

Does council have to contribute funds?

No there is no requirement for additional funding. However, criterion 2 (level of support) and criterion 4 (value for money) provide opportunities to indicate any in-kind, financial, collaborative or strategic support that may exist for your project proposal.

What amount of funding is required from project partners?

There is no requirement for partners to contributing funding towards the projects. However, any in-kind, financial, collaborative or strategic support will strengthen your proposal.

Can we lodge multiple applications?

Yes. There is no restriction on the number of applications that are lodged per council. Multiple applications from a council will compete with the entire pool of applications and it is possible that more than one project from a council will be successful.

What is priority infrastructure?

'Priority infrastructure' is infrastructure that provides an important service to the community. It is not defined as critical infrastructure.

Are solar panel (PV) projects eligible?

PV projects are not eligible as their primary focus is on energy efficiency, and there are other market and funding mechanisms to encourage their implementation.

What if my project isn't water or infrastructure related?

Priority will be given to those projects that address water supply and quality or adapt priority infrastructure, however all eligible projects will be considered.

I don't work for a council, can I apply for grant funding?

A BRCC application must be lodged by a council, or a Regional Organisation of Councils, who will receive and administer the funds. However, the grant program encourages partnerships and collaboration across council boundaries and with private sector or community sector organisations. By partnering with Local Government, your project can still apply for funding.

Can we apply for research projects?

Research projects can be considered if they have been identified in a climate change risk assessment or respond to regional climate change vulnerability. Consider how the project might address the assessment criteria e.g. it may be difficult for a research project to demonstrate building adaptive capacity. However, funds can be used to conduct a trial/pilot project which may be the subject of research.

Would a community education program be a possible project?

Yes, if the program has been designed to address a key risk or vulnerability it could build resilience to climate change. However, be aware that there are other opportunities for funding for community collaboration and community based programs, such as the Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP).

Can the funding be used for capital works?

The BRCC objective is to fund implementation of climate change adaptation. This may include capital works projects.

Can I apply for studies or works that address flooding, rising sea levels and/or coastal erosion?

Your project will be eligible for consideration if it addresses an identified climate change risk or vulnerability. However projects which are eligible under other NSW Government funding streams may not score as highly on the "value for money" assessment criteria as projects that cannot be funded by other grants or funding programs.

Are we required to put out an open tender or can we work directly with the group we have in mind?

You are required to ensure all procurement and employment complies with your council's internal policies and guidelines.

Who should the 'letters of support' be addressed to?

Project Manager – Building Resilience to Climate Change

Local Government NSW

Can the information on the form be saved before submission?

Unfortunately, no. This is a known limitation of the system and therefore we recommend you copy the form and draft the entry in a word document.

Can we submit extra supporting documents, photos and maps?

Yes, you can upload one additional file. Please ensure that the total amount of uploads does not exceed 20 MB.

What time exactly do the applications close on the due date?

Midnight

Can I get an extension for my application?

No extensions will be granted.