



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Frequently Asked Questions for the Regional Hydrogen Hubs Program – Townsville Region Grant opportunity

Are you having difficulties with applying in the portal?

If you are experiencing difficulties when trying to apply in the Portal, the best way to seek assistance is to call our Contact Centre Team on 13 28 46. The [Contact / Need help](#) link on our website also provides other ways to receive support from our Contact Centre team. The Contact Centre will answer your question via phone, email, or webchat. If they can't help, they will put you in touch with someone who can.

Townsville region

How is the 'Townsville region' defined? What are the geographical boundaries?

The [Grant opportunity guidelines](#) state at Clause 5.2 Eligible locations, that projects **must** be delivered in the Townsville region of northern Queensland. Further, the intended policy objectives of the program outlined in the guidelines include establishing a new industry built around the availability of green hydrogen in the Townsville region.

The guidelines do not restrict all project activities to a prescribed geographic location, and it is up to the applicant to make a case, firstly for the eligibility of the activities and how their inclusion will deliver a project in the Townsville Region, and secondly to address Assessment Criterion 1 for how the project aligns with the policy intent to develop a regional hydrogen hub in the Townsville region.

An application that has activities predominantly located outside of the Townsville Region will be unlikely to be considered eligible or be competitive.

Applicant eligibility

Does a Trustee acting for a Trust have to be a GST Payer to be an eligible applicant?

If the lead applicant is a trustee applying on behalf of a trust it must be an entity incorporated in Australia and meet all other conditions described under clauses 4.1 and 4.2 not be included under clause 4.3 of the guidelines.

Is an Australian entity with majority overseas ownership eligible to be a lead partner?

Yes, the Australian entity would be eligible to be lead applicant, providing it meets the requirements of Clause 4.1 of the guidelines.

What about green ammonia production? Would the cost associated with this be eligible?

Hydrogen derivatives like Green Ammonia are likely to have a role in the transportation and storage of hydrogen. This conversion process and associated cost is within the scope of this grant opportunity.

Eligible expenditure and activities

What pre-project activities are eligible?

Activities such as establishing partnerships, conducting feasibility studies and Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) are some of the early-stage project activities that may be eligible. However, only

expenditure that is incurred between the grant project start and end dates can be included. For more details, please see Clause 5.1 and Appendix A of the [Grant opportunity guidelines](#).

What is the definition of “eligible expenditure”? Does it cover devex, capex and opex?
Activities considered eligible for this grant opportunity are set out at Clause 5.1 of the [Grant opportunity guidelines](#).

Would waste-to-energy systems, or syngas reforming, that can produce power to drive hydrogen electrolyzers, be eligible for the grant?

The purpose of the grant opportunity is to produce green hydrogen as defined in Section 14 of the [Grant opportunity guidelines](#). Applicants will need to explain how their project will produce and/or stimulate demand for green hydrogen.

Outcomes notification

When will successful applicants be notified?

Expression of interest outcome will be notified by the end of June 2023.

Consortium development

Can the Commonwealth share the names of parties interested in forming a consortium to apply for the grant?

No, the Commonwealth does not have a role in facilitating consortium development. Consortium development is the responsibility of the lead applicant.

Can a consortium consist of companies related through common shareholding or subsidiary arrangements.

Yes. An application must be a joint application with at least one and preferably multiple project partners. However, applicants should consider how well their joint applications addresses a range of merit criteria including the extent to which the project connects with existing Australian industry and infrastructure, links with research organisations and other businesses, and how the consortium will best support co-located industry in the region. We would expect any potential conflicts of interest to be noted in the application.

Project duration

What is meant by the project period of 3.5 years?

Grant project activities and milestones must be completed within 3.5 years of the execution of a grant agreement. All project activities must be completed by 27 March 2027.

Knowledge sharing

Does the knowledge sharing requirement mean that the Commonwealth will own the rights to all project-related Intellectual Property, or can applicants protect it?

The Commonwealth does not intend to acquire any intellectual property rights arising from the development and completion of the projects.

Submission date

Is 27 April the closing date for Stage 1 or Stage 2 of the application process?

Stage 1 applications for the Townsville Region Grant Opportunity open on 14 March 2023 and close on 27 April 2023. Based on the assessment of Stage 1 applications, selected applicants will be invited to proceed to Stage 2, which will close on 4 August 2023.

Funding agreement

Are there circumstances under which the standard clauses of the Commonwealth Funding Agreement can be amended?

Generally, we do not amend standard clauses of Funding Agreements. Where a grantee makes a case for amendment, Program Management may seek legal advice on a case-by-case basis.