

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**Committee Inquiries Question on Notice**

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts And Audit**

**Inquiry into Commonwealth grants administration**

**IQ22-000231**

**Division/Agency: DIV - Regional Development and Local Government**

**Hansard Reference: Division/Agency: DIV - Regional Development and Local Government**

**Hansard Reference: Written (15 December 2022)**

**Topic: RGF - Fund Design**

**Committee asked:**

1. When was the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) established?
2. What was the initial funding allocation for the program?
3. What was the scope of the initial funding provided for?
4. Was additional funding subsequently allocated to the program?
5. If so:
  - a. How many times?
  - b. When?
  - c. How much?
  - d. What was the scope of funding for each additional allocation?
  - e. What process did the Government use to allocate additional funding each time?
6. Please provide a breakdown of RGF funding for each year from the start of the program including:
  - a. Funding allocated
  - b. Funding awarded to projects
  - c. Funding expended on projects
  - d. Underspent funding
7. Did UCF have dedicated departmental resources allocated to administer the program?
8. If so:
  - a. How many staff
  - b. At what levels?
9. What was the cost of administering the RGF?
10. Did the RGF have program guidelines?
11. Were draft guidelines ever provided for the program?
12. If so, please provide a copy.
13. Did the Australian Government consult with State and Territory governments on the design and implementation of the RGF?
14. If so, what feedback did the Australian Government receive on the design of the program?
15. Did the department recommend a competitive open tender process for the program?

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**Answer:**

1. The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) was established in the 2017-18 Federal budget.
2. The initial administered funding allocation for the program was \$272.2 million.
3. The RGF was intended to provide grants of \$10 million or more to support major transformational projects to deliver long-term economic growth and create jobs in regions, including those undergoing structural adjustment. The scope was expanded in February 2018 prior to the program guidelines being published, to enable strategically linked projects which together deliver economic benefits to a region or regions, to be included.
4. No additional funding has subsequently been allocated to the program.
5. N/A
6. RGF funding information for each year from the start of the program:
  - a. Funding allocated for each year of the program as at 30 November 2022:

Regional Growth Fund	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>2022-23 BUDGET</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17.305</b>	<b>34.116</b>	<b>63.166</b>	<b>132.613</b>	<b>247.2</b>

*Note that \$25m was transferred from the original RGF program appropriation of \$272.2m to the CDG programme as part of the 2021-22 Budget process<sup>1</sup>.*

- b. In 2019 a total of \$272.2m was awarded in Australian Government funding for 17 RGF projects. Two projects have since been mutually terminated and no Australian Government funding was spent on these projects.
  - c. RGF funding expended as at 30 November 2022:

Regional Growth Fund	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<b>PAID TO DATE as at 30 Nov 2022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17.305</b>	<b>34.116</b>	<b>63.166</b>	<b>23.891</b>	<b>138.478</b>

- d. As at 30 November 2022 none of the RGF projects are expected to have a project underspend.

<sup>1</sup> To fund one project under the Community Development Grant Programme (CDG) using funds from a mutually terminated project RGF project in the same location.

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7. The department established a team of staff to conduct the initial RGF assessments associated with stage 1 of the RGF application process, provide advice and recommendations to a Ministerial Panel for decision in conjunction with Cabinet or the relevant Committee of Cabinet, assess full business cases received as part of stage 2, and make recommendations to the Minister on the value with relevant money assessment of each full business case. Over time, the department has moved away from having dedicated departmental resources allocated to administer the program. Departmental resources are used to deliver a suite of regional grant programs concurrently, including the RGF.
8. There were:
  - a. 18 staff dedicated to the implementation (assessment phase) of the RGF program
  - b. This consisted of three Executive Level 1 (EL1) staff and 15 APS6 staff.
9. The department did not receive specific departmental funding to administer the RGF program as part of the budget process. The department continues to absorb costs associated with administering the RGF, and is unable to separate these costs out as staff work concurrently across a suite of regional grant programs.
10. Approved guidelines are in place for the RGF. These were publicly released on 02/03/2018 and are available on the department's website at [www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/regional-and-community-programs/regional-growth-fund](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/regional-australia/regional-and-community-programs/regional-growth-fund)
11. Draft guidelines were not provided for the program.
12. N/A
13. The then Minister advised State and Territory Ministers of the programs intended opening in March 2018. The department sought input from State / Territory Governments and relevant Australian Government Departments at the Initial Assessment stage of the program.
14. N/A
15. The department recommended an open, competitive selection process be undertaken for this merit based grants program. Stage one required submission of an initial application for competitive assessment. Successful applicants from stage one were then invited to submit a full business case that aligned with the program guidelines for a value with relevant money assessment.

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**IQ22-000232**

**Division/Agency: DIV - Regional Development and Local Government**

**Hansard Reference: Written (15 December 2022)**

**Topic: RGF - Project Identification and Selection**

**Committee asked:**

16. What was the process to identify projects for funding from the Regional Growth Fund?
17. Was the process outlined in submissions relating to project design?
18. Did the Prime Minister or their office have any role in project identification and selection?
19. Please provide a list of all projects identified and/or proposed for the RGF including:
  - a. Project name
  - b. Project location
  - c. Project electorate (at time project was proposed)
  - d. Proposed project cost
  - e. Proposed project funding
  - f. Proposed project timeframe
20. Did the department detail the electorate of each proposed project as part of part of the project proposal process?
21. At the time each project was identified what percentage of projects were in electorates held by:
  - a. Liberal, LNP or Nationals Members
  - b. Labor Members
  - c. Non-major party members
  - d. Less than 5% two-party preferred margin
22. Please provide a table of all projects and share of project costs between Australian Government funding and other funding partners.
23. Did each project have a project proposal or business case?
24. Please provide a list of all projects and Benefit-Cost-Ratios.
25. Please provide each project proposal and business case.
26. Were any projects assessed by Infrastructure Australia?
27. For each project that was assessed by IA please provide the date the Department received the IA assessment and the date funding was approved for the project.
28. Did the Department recommend any projects not be funded?
29. Please provide a list of all projects that were recommended not to be funded.

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**Answer:**

16. A two stage process was used to identify projects for funding from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF), as follows:

Application process - Stage 1

The fund opened for initial applications on 2 March 2018 and closed on 27 April 2018, which allowed eligible applicants to submit their project for consideration, without requiring them to commit significant resources to develop a full business case in support of their application. Eligible applications were merit assessed by the department.

The department consulted with state and territory governments and relevant Australian government agencies, including other Divisions in the department regarding any potential issues noted in the application. In addition, the department held an Interdepartmental Committee meeting with senior representatives from other agencies to discuss the Department's list of projects recommended to be invited to apply under Stage 2. The department then provided advice and recommendations to a Ministerial Panel that selected projects, in consultation with Cabinet, to proceed to Stage 2 of the application process.

Application process – Stage 2

Successful applicants from the Stage 1 process were invited to submit a Full Business Case that aligned with the program guidelines, for a value with relevant money assessment. This assessment considered project viability and sustainability, and eligible applicant viability. Projects assessed as being value with relevant money were approved for funding by the then Minister. One project was assessed as not being value with relevant money and was not approved for funding. One application was withdrawn by the applicant.

Where a project had been invited to submit a full business case under Stage 2 of the application process but was not successful at the end of the value with relevant money assessment, the RGF Guidelines allowed for the Ministerial Panel to reconsider unsuccessful applications from Stage 1 and invite them to submit a full business case at a later stage.

Three applicants from Stage 1 were subsequently invited to submit a full business case for assessment, and all three of those projects were subsequently approved for funding by the then Minister.

17. Yes

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18. The former Prime Minister provided formal approval of the course of action proposed by the then Deputy Prime Minister with regard to:

- Ministerial Panel membership arrangements,
- endorsement by Cabinet of the RGF Ministerial Panel's decisions,
- inclusion of additional projects for Stage 2 assessment and
- the announcement strategy for successful initial applications.

The then Assistant Minister to the former Prime Minister was a member of the Ministerial Panel. The Ministerial Panel selected projects to proceed to Stage 2 of the application process in consultation with Cabinet. The former Prime Minister was a member of Cabinet.

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19. Table A provides projects identified and/or proposed for the RGF.

Note for (c - the department did not detail the electorate of each proposed project as part of the project proposal process

*Table A – Projects identified and/or proposed for the RGF*

<b>Project Name (a.)</b>	<b>Project Location (b.)</b>	<b>Proposed project cost (d.)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project funding (e.)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project timeframe (f.)<sup>3</sup></b>
Construction of South Rockhampton Flood Levee, Port Curtis, QLD	Port Curtis	\$60,000,000	\$30,000,000	30/11/2020
Construction of Port Spencer Deep Sea Wharf, Eyre Peninsula, SA	Eyre Peninsula	\$140,000,000	\$10,000,000	01/09/2020
Construction of Projectile Forging Plant, Maryborough, QLD	Moonaboola Industrial Estate	\$80,000,000	\$40,000,000	01/11/2020
Construction of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks Super Brewery, Bundaberg, QLD	Bundaberg	\$156,200,000	\$22,500,000	30/12/2021
Upgrade of Potato Processing Facility, Ulverstone, TAS	Ulverstone	\$49,100,000	\$12,000,000	01/01/2021

<sup>1</sup> Based on original full business case

<sup>2</sup> Based on original request for funding as set out in funding application

<sup>3</sup> Anticipated project end date based on original timeframes set out in funding application

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<b>Project Name (a.)</b>	<b>Project Location (b.)</b>	<b>Proposed project cost (d.)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project funding (e.)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project timeframe (f.)<sup>3</sup></b>
Construction of Peel Business Park and the Peel Agri-Innovation Precinct, Nambeelup, WA	Nambeelup	\$62,346,937	\$21,750,000	26/11/2021
Construction of Katherine Flood Mitigation and Headworks Project, Katherine, NT	Katherine	\$22,000,000	\$11,000,000	22/12/2021
Construction of a highway from the Great Northern Highway to the NorthLink WA Project and access to the South Bullsbrook Industrial Precinct and Bullsbrook Intermodal Freight Terminal, Bullsbrook, WA	Bullsbrook	\$29,588,534	\$14,794,267	25/02/2021
Construction of the Townsville Marine Tourism Precinct, Townsville, QLD	Townsville	\$53,200,000	\$17,500,000	01/02/2021
Construction of Regional Aquatic, Arts and Leisure Precinct, Mackay Park, Batemans Bay, NSW	Batemans Bay	\$55,220,000	\$27,000,000	20/12/2020
Upgrade and expansion of Norco Co-operative Ice Cream Business Unit, South Lismore, NSW	South Lismore	\$29,923,250	\$14,961,625	31/01/2021
Construction of Nannup Plywood Veneer Peeling Facility, Nannup, WA	Nannup	\$52,935,000	\$25,900,000	28/02/2020



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<b>Project Name (a.)</b>	<b>Project Location (b.)</b>	<b>Proposed project cost (d.)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project funding (e.)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project timeframe (f.)<sup>3</sup></b>
Construction of Rivers and Ridges Yarra Ranges Trails – Yarra Ranges, VIC	Lilydale, Sherbrooke, Mount Dandenong, Warburton, Tecoma, Coldstream, Yarra Glen, Olinda, Sassafras and Kalorama	\$25,300,000	\$10,000,000	31/12/2021
Construction of Harrup Park Country Club Sporting Facilities, South Mackay, QLD	South Mackay	\$20,045,000	\$10,022,500	01/07/2020
Construction of Australian Underwater Discovery Centre, Busselton, WA	Busselton	\$37,562,489	\$15,000,000	31/07/2021
Foreshore Redevelopment and Upgrade of Public Use Areas in Northern Victoria	Swan Hill	\$33,606,000	\$16,803,000	31/12/2021
Construction of Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre – Mount Gambier, SA	Mount Gambier	\$40,000,000	\$20,000,000	30/09/2021

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<b>Project Name (a.)</b>	<b>Project Location (b.)</b>	<b>Proposed project cost (d.)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project funding (e.)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Proposed project timeframe (f.)<sup>3</sup></b>
Construction of the Busselton Entertainment Arts and Culture Hub (BEACH)	Busselton	\$21,870,000	\$10,935,000	04/10/2021
Construction of Coffs Harbour Airport Enterprise Park, Coffs Harbour, NSW	Coffs Harbour	\$24,200,000	\$12,100,000	31/12/2020

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20. The department did not detail the electorate of each proposed project as part of the project proposal process.
21. The department is unable to provide information about the percentage of projects in electorates held by the various political parties. The department does not undertake electorate analysis.
22. Table B provides projects approved for RGF funding and the agreed share of project costs between Australian Government funding and other funding partners at the time of approval.

*Table B – Projects approved for RGF funding, including co-funding at time of approval.*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Project Cost<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Australian Government Funding Amount<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Other (Non Australian Government) Funding Amount<sup>6</sup></b>
Construction of South Rockhampton Flood Levee, Port Curtis, QLD	\$80,386,000	\$25,000,000  Actual cost = \$0 as project mutually terminated	\$55,386,000
Construction of Projectile Forging Plant, Maryborough, QLD	\$59,470,844	\$28,500,000	\$30,970,844
Construction of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks Super Brewery, Bundaberg, QLD	\$152,400,000	\$19,000,000	\$133,400,000
Upgrade of Potato Processing Facility, Ulverstone, TAS	\$51,340,350	\$12,000,000	\$39,340,350
Construction of Peel Business Park and the Peel Agri-Innovation Precinct, Nambelup, WA	\$52,551,378	\$21,750,000	\$30,801,378

<sup>4</sup> Based on the original Executed Funding Agreement

<sup>5</sup> Based on the original Executed Funding Agreement

<sup>6</sup> Based on the original Executed Funding Agreement

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<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Project Cost<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Australian Government Funding Amount<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Other (Non Australian Government) Funding Amount<sup>6</sup></b>
Construction of Katherine Flood Mitigation and Headworks Project, Katherine, NT	\$22,285,000	\$11,000,000	\$11,285,000
Construction of a highway from the Great Northern Highway to the NorthLink WA Project and access to the South Bullsbrook Industrial Precinct and Bullsbrook Intermodal Freight Terminal, Bullsbrook, WA	\$29,588,535	\$14,794,267	\$14,794,268
Construction of the Townsville Marine Tourism Precinct, Townsville, QLD	\$52,500,000	\$15,000,000  Actual cost = \$0 as project mutually terminated	\$35,700,000
Construction of Regional Aquatic, Arts and Leisure Precinct, Mackay Park, Batemans Bay, NSW	\$55,221,696	\$25,000,000	\$30,221,696
Upgrade and expansion of Norco Co-operative Ice Cream Business Unit, South Lismore, NSW	\$35,780,933	\$14,961,625	\$20,819,308
Construction of Rivers and Ridges Yarra Ranges Trails – Yarra Ranges, VIC	\$34,240,000	Total \$15,300,000  Comprises \$10,000,000 – RGF \$2,300,000 – CDG and \$3,000,000 BBRF	\$18,940,000

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<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Project Cost<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Australian Government Funding Amount<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Other (Non Australian Government) Funding Amount<sup>6</sup></b>
Construction of Harrup Park Country Club Sporting Facilities, South Mackay, QLD	\$20,045,000	\$10,022,500	\$10,022,500
Construction of Australian Underwater Discovery Centre, Busselton, WA	\$30,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$17,000,000
Foreshore Redevelopment and Upgrade of Public Use Areas in Northern Victoria	\$34,562,162	\$16,803,000	\$17,759,162
Construction of Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre – Mount Gambier, SA	\$39,116,000	\$15,000,000	\$24,116,000
Construction of the Busselton Entertainment Arts and Culture Hub (BEACH)	\$21,320,000	\$10,350,000	\$10,970,000
Construction of Coffs Harbour Airport Enterprise Park, Coffs Harbour, NSW	\$24,409,833	\$10,000,000	\$14,409,833

23. Each project that was progressed to Stage 2 of the application and selection process for the RGF program provided a full business case.
24. The provision of benefit cost ratios was not a requirement of either the Full Business Case Submission or the mandatory supporting documents. While some proponents did include this information, it was not included in all submissions and was provided in a variety of formats.

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25. A copy of each project full business case is at **Attachment A**. Full Business Case submissions may include Commercial in Confidence restrictions and none of the submissions should be disclosed outside the Committee, or published more broadly.
26. None of the RGF projects were assessed by Infrastructure Australia.
27. N/A
28. No ineligible projects were selected to be recommended for funding during Stage 1 of the assessment process.

During Stage 2 of the selection process, one project did not provide all the evidence required to support its full business case. On the department's advice the then Minister advised the applicant that it had been unsuccessful in securing funding.

29. Projects that the department recommended not be selected were:

#### Stage 1

- Construction of New England Abattoir, Invergowrie, NSW
- Development of Valla Urban Growth Area, Valla, NSW
- Construction of the Bathers Way Recreation Trail – Bar Beach to Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW
- Redevelopment of Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Co-op and Education Fishing Industry Tourism Centre, Coffs Harbour, NSW
- The Maranoa Mitchell Crystal Lagoon Sporting Entertainment and Leisure Park and the Maranoa Mitchell Colonial Piering Tourist Village, Mitchell, QLD
- Expansion of the Toll Regional Port Pirie Freight Hub – Trading Gateway, SA
- The Carbon Loop Project, Esk and Yatala, QLD
- Construction of Copper Coast Wallaroo Shores Project, Wallaroo, SA
- Construction of Sports Precinct, Modewarre, VIC
- Construction of buildings and structure as part of the Expansion of the Aboriginal Male's Healing Rehabilitation Centre, WA
- Construction of the Mount Barker Regional Indoor Aquatic, Leisure and Wellness Facility, Mount Barker, SA
- A-Tech Australia's Aluminium Extrusion Project, Orange, NSW
- Construction of Meat Processing Facility and Feedlot, Hughenden, QLD
- Establishment of STEM on the Move, Seven Hills, NSW
- Construction of Port of Burnie International Container Terminal, Burnie, TAS
- Construction of Joyson Orchards Project, Inman Valley, SA
- Development of Right Tracks Sports Development Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- Construction of digital radio infrastructure for 'Amplify' a regional radio initiative, Bathurst, NSW

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- Construction of Value added Food Processing Facility, SA
- IPP Waste to Energy Facility, Unanderra, NSW
- Construction of Multi User Warehousing and Distribution Hub, Leeton, NSW
- Construction of Daintree Bio Precinct, Mossman, QLD
- Extension of Australian Space Initiative, New Norcia, WA
- Construction of Townsville Gateway, QLD
- Construction of the Rosebud Aquatic Facility, Rosebud, VIC
- Replacement and Upgrade of Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) – Banksia Park, SA

#### Stage 2

- Construction of Port Spencer Deep Sea Wharf, Eyre Peninsula, SA

#### **Attachments**

- **Attachment A** – Q25 Copy Full Business Case for Each Project

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**Inquiry into Commonwealth grants administration**

**IQ22-000233**

**Division/Agency: DIV - Regional Development and Local Government**

**Hansard Reference: Written (15 December 2022)**

**Topic: RGF - Project Funding Approval**

**Committee asked:**

30. Who approved funding on a project by project basis?
31. Did the Minister delegate funding approval to either the department or another Minister?
32. Did the Prime Minister have any formal or informal role in approving or selecting projects?
33. Please provide a list of all projects funded from the RGF including:
- a. Project name
  - b. Project location
  - c. Project electorate (at time project was funded)
  - d. Proposed project cost
  - e. Allocated project funding
  - f. Proposed project timeframe
34. Please provide a list of all projects that were recommended not to be funded that received a funding allocation.
35. Please provide a list of all projects that required approval from the Minister for Finance for funding.

**Answer:**

30. All projects were approved by the Program Delegate, Hon Michael McCormack MP, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development.

31. No

32. The former Prime Minister provided formal approval of the course of action proposed by the then Deputy Prime Minister with regard to Ministerial Panel membership arrangements, endorsement by Cabinet of the RGF Ministerial Panel's decisions, inclusion of additional projects for stage two assessment and the announcement strategy for successful initial applications.

The then Assistant Minister to the former Prime Minister was a member of the Ministerial Panel. The Ministerial Panel selected projects to proceed to Stage 2 of the application process in consultation with Cabinet.



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33. Table A provides details of projects funded under the RGF program, including details requested at 33 a-f.

Table A – Projects funded under the RGF program

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Electorate at time of funding approval</b>	<b>Proposed Project Cost</b>	<b>Allocated project Funding (RGF)</b>	<b>Funding Agreement Execution Date</b>	<b>Estimated / Actual Completion Date.(Actual completion dates included if applicable as at 31 Dec 2022)</b>
Construction of the Busselton Performing Arts and Convention Centre (BPACC)	Busselton, WA	Forrest	\$20,700,000	\$10,350,000	9/08/2019	30/4/2019
Construction of the South Rockhampton Flood Levee, Port Curtis, Qld	Port Curtis, QLD	Capricornia	\$80,386,000	\$25,000,000	28/3/2019	Deed of Termination executed 19/4/2021 and no funds were allocated
Upgrade and Expansion of the Norco Co-operative Ice Cream Business Unit, South Lismore, NSW.	South Lismore, NSW	Page	\$30,000,000	\$14,961,625	29/3/2019	15/6/2022
Construction of the Rivers and Ridges Yarra Ranges Trails	Yarra Ranges, VIC	Casey	\$34,240,000	\$10,000,000	5/4/2019	31/5/2023
Construction of a Projectile Forging Plant	Maryborough, QLD	Wide Bay	\$58,492,843	\$28,500,000	5/4/2019	31/7/2022
Construction of a Regional Aquatic, Arts and Leisure Precinct, Mackay Park	Batemans Bay NSW	Gilmore	\$63,259,290	\$25,000,000	28/3/2019	31/8/2022

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<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Electorate at time of funding approval</b>	<b>Proposed Project Cost</b>	<b>Allocated project Funding (RGF)</b>	<b>Funding Agreement Execution Date</b>	<b>Estimated / Actual Completion Date.(Actual completion dates included if applicable as at 31 Dec 2022)</b>
Busselton Jetty Village, Marine Discovery Centre and Underwater Art Trail	Busselton, WA	Forrest	\$32,000,000	\$13,000,000	30/10/2019	31/5/2023
Construction of Harrup Park Country Club Sporting Facilities	South Mackay, QLD	Dawson	\$20,045,000	\$10,022,500	11/9/2019	31/3/2022
Construction of Foreshore Redevelopment and Upgrade of Public Use Areas, Multiple Locations, Vic & NSW	Swan Hill, VIC; Balranald, NSW; Wycheproof, VIC; Deniliquin, NSW; Robinvale, VIC; Kerang, VIC; Wedderburn, VIC; Moama, NSW; Nyah, VIC; Wemen, VIC; Beverford, VIC; Boundary Bend, VIC; Piangil, VIC	Farrer, Mallee	\$34,562,162	\$16,803,000	5/4/2019	31/12/2022
Construction of the Coffs Harbour Airport Enterprise Park, Coffs Harbour, NSW	Coffs Harbour, NSW	Cowper	\$33,000,000	\$10,000,000	18/11/2019	31/10/2022

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<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Electorate at time of funding approval</b>	<b>Proposed Project Cost</b>	<b>Allocated project Funding (RGF)</b>	<b>Funding Agreement Execution Date</b>	<b>Estimated / Actual Completion Date.(Actual completion dates included if applicable as at 31 Dec 2022)</b>
Construction of Mount Gambier Regional Sport and Recreation Centre, Mount Gambier, SA	Mount Gambier, SA	Barker	\$62,128,145	\$15,000,000	5/3/2019	31/12/2022
Construction of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks Super Brewery, Bundaberg, Qld	Bundaberg, QLD	Hinkler	\$152,400,000	\$19,000,000	28/3/2019	31/5/2023
Upgrade of Potato Processing Facility	Ulverstone, TAS	Braddon	\$51,340,350	\$12,000,000	1/4/2019	17/8/2022
Construction of the Townsville Marine Tourism Precinct	Townsville, QLD	Herbert	\$52,500,000	\$15,000,000	5/4/2019	Deed of Termination executed 14/5/2021 and no funds were allocated
Construction of the Stock Road Extension	Bullsbrook, WA	Durack	\$61,040,488	\$14,794,267	5/4/2019	30/4/2023
Construction of the Peel Business Park and the Peel Agri-Innovation Precinct	Nambeelup, WA	Canning	\$52,551,378	\$21,750,000	28/3/2019	15/5/2023
Construction of the Katherine Flood Mitigation and Headworks Project, Katherine, NT	Katherine, NT	Lingiari	\$22,285,000	\$11,000,000	5/4/2019	2/5/2022

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**Committee Inquiries Question on Notice**

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts And Audit**

**Inquiry into Commonwealth grants administration**

34. No projects received funding that were not recommended for funding. / All projects that received a funding allocation were recommended for funding

35. No projects required funding approval from the Minister for Finance.

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

**Committee Inquiries Question on Notice**

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts And Audit**

**Inquiry into Commonwealth grants administration**

**IQ22-000234**

**Division/Agency: DIV - Regional Development and Local Government**

**Hansard Reference: Written (15 December 2022)**

**Topic: RGF - Project Delivery**

**Committee asked:**

36. Were all projects awarded funding from the RGF delivered on time and within budget?
37. Please provide a table of projects that had variations to funding including
- Initial funding allocation
  - the amount of variation and details
  - any subsequent variations amount and details
38. Were any projects cancelled that had already incurred cost?
39. Please provide a list of projects cancelled that had cost incurred including:
- Project name
  - Total project budget
  - Costs incurred
  - Explanation for project cancellation
40. How many projects are ongoing?
41. Does the Australian Government have a style guide for the program?
42. If so, when was the style guide created and by who?
43. Were there any costs associated with the style guide?
44. If so how much did it cost?
45. Does the Australian Government have a signage requirement as part of the funding agreement for each project?
46. If so, what is the signage requirement?
47. Is there a specific clause relating to the Australian Government logo size on the sign?
48. Does the Australian Government have a milestone event requirement for each funding agreement?
49. If so, please outline the requirement?

**Answer:**

36. Not all projects were completed according to the original estimated project completion dates. No projects received additional RGF funding. As at 22 December 2022, of the 17 projects funded under the RGF program;
- two projects have been mutually terminated
  - three projects are complete
  - the remaining 12 projects are underway. These projects must be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2023.
37. No projects had the funding amount varied.

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38. No. Neither of the two projects that were terminated incurred any costs against the RGF funding.

39. N/A

40. As at 22 December 2022, 12 projects are in progress.

41. No

42. N/A

43. N/A

44. N/A

45. Yes

46. Clause 3.2 of Schedule 1 of the Funding Agreement states:

*The Grantee agrees to acknowledge the Commonwealth's support in all Material, publications and promotional and advertising materials published in connection with this Agreement. The Commonwealth may notify the Grantee of the form of acknowledgement that the Grantee is to use.*

Part B of the Grant Details states:

*To meet the Grantee's obligation to acknowledge the Commonwealth's support as required under clause 3.2 of Schedule 1, the Grantee must:*

- a. subject to paragraph (b) erect and maintain signage in relation to the Activity which contains an acknowledgement of the Commonwealth support, in accordance with the Signage Guidelines as advised by the Commonwealth from time to time;*
- b. provide details of the proposed signage to the Commonwealth and obtain Commonwealth approval for the signage prior to use;*
- c. subject to paragraph (d) include an acknowledgement of Commonwealth support including the Commonwealth logo in all publications and promotional activities related to the Activity and in connection with this Agreement;*
- d. provide details of the proposed form of acknowledgement in publications and promotional activities to the Commonwealth and obtain Commonwealth approval for the acknowledgement prior to use; and*
- e. otherwise comply with its obligations in clause 3 of Schedule 1.*

47. The Signage Guidelines referred to in a. (above) stipulate the specifications for signage.

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An example is provided at the image above.

48. Yes

49. The Funding Agreement requires that the Grantee must conduct an official opening of the completed project unless otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth. In addition, the Funding Agreement notes that the Grantee must invite the Commonwealth's representative to officiate at any event held in connection with the Grant.