



Our ref: CORP F2022/000312
Receipt No: 16488653

CORPORATE SERVICES
Level 15
25 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 667
Tel 8429 0422
www.pir.sa.gov.au

11 October 2022

The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 1 September 2022, seeking access to the following:

"A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters, meeting agendas, diary entries, placemats, event attendance records and any other correspondence) between Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (including directly with staff within the office of the Minister for Primary Industries), relating to the Building Better Regions Fund."

Timeframe: 1/01/2018 to 31/08/2022

On 28 September 2022, PIRSA's Senior Freedom of Information Advisor contacted your office seeking clarification as to whether your application refers specifically to the grants program, ie excludes any documents regarding individual applications to the Building Better Regions Fund. On 4 October 2022, it was confirmed that your application relates specifically to the grants program.

Your application was placed on hold for a period of six days until receipt of the response from your office on 4 October 2022. Accordingly, the new determination due date is 10 October 2022.

The following determination has been finalised.

I have located seven documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Regional Development dated March 2018 re Regional Development Fund – Australian Government Funding Programs	3
2a	Attachment to Document 2 – Building Better Regions Fund	3
3	Draft minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 2021 re Regional Development in South Australia	8

The information removed from Documents 2 and 3 is outside of the scope of your request.

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
5	Email thread dated 3/2/2022 re Cabinet document	2

Access to the above document is pursuant to Clause 1(1)(e) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“1 – Cabinet documents

(1) A document is an exempt document –

(e) if it contains matter the disclosure of which would disclose information concerning any deliberation or decision of Cabinet;”

The information removed would reveal detail of a matter considered in Cabinet.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Regional Development dated 30/1/2018 re Cabinet matter	2
1a	Attachment to Document 1 – Cabinet Agenda Item dated February 2018	2

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 1(1)(f) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

"1 – Cabinet documents

(1) *A document is an exempt document –*

(f) *if it is a briefing paper specifically prepared for the use of a Minister in relation to a matter submitted, or proposed to be submitted to Cabinet."*

The documents consist of briefing notes specifically prepared for the use of the Minister in relation to matters proposed for submission to Cabinet.

With respect to Document 1, although access to the document is refused, please note that it also consists of information that is out of scope of the application.

Determination 4

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
4	Parliamentary Briefing Note dated 27/5/2022	2

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

"17 – Documents subject to contempt etc

A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the public disclosure of which would, but for any immunity of the Crown –

(c) infringe the privilege of Parliament."

The document consists of a briefing note which was specifically prepared for the purpose of use in proceedings in Parliament. Disclosure of this information would infringe the privilege of Parliament.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/information-held-sa-government/making-freedom-information-application#Review>, by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths

Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS



MINUTES *forming ENCLOSURE to*

Ref No. A3502200

TO: MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**RE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND – AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
FUNDING PROGRAMS**

PURPOSE

To provide you with an overview of South Australia's participation in the Australian Government's regional funding programs.

CRITICAL DEADLINE

Nil.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government currently has three funding programs available to assist regional Australian projects: Building Better Regions Fund, **Out of scope**

Out of scope

Regions SA has a role in coordinating cross-government efforts to raise awareness about the funds and facilitating partnerships, in addition to co-investing in significant projects.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Building Better Regions Fund

In 2016 the Australian Government announced the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), which will invest \$297.7 million over four years. BBRF focuses exclusively on areas outside of major capital cities and aims to create jobs, drive economic growth, and enhance liveability in regional areas. South Australia's seven Regional Development Australia associations helped applicants to prepare high quality submissions to this program.

There are two funding streams: Infrastructure Projects, and Community Investments. There is no specific allocation of funding to either program stream, to a particular region or State, or to a defined project type.

There have been two rounds of BBRF funding, and these are detailed in **Attachment 1**.

Out of scope

Out of scope



RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** this briefing.

NOTED / NOT NOTED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Primary Industries and Regions SA

March 2018

Minister for Regional Development

March 2018

CONTACT	Alison Lloyd-Wright	2nd CONTACT	Ann Barclay
POSITION	Executive Director	POSITION	Director
DIRECTORATE	Regions SA	DIRECTORATE	Regions SA
PHONE/MOBILE	0413 929 765	PHONE/MOBILE	0414 886 189
PREPARED BY	C R Barrington-Kerr – Principal Policy Officer		

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND

Both streams have the following co-funding requirements in common:

- Projects classified as remote or very remote - 3:1 ratio (for every \$3 of grant funding requested the applicant must contribute at least \$1), up to 75% of eligible project cost;
- All other classifications - 1:1 ratio (for every \$1 of grant funding requested the applicant must contribute at least \$1), up to 50% of eligible project cost;
- Projects granted an exceptional circumstance co-funding exemption - Exempt from co-funding (although any level of contribution is encouraged), up to 100% of eligible project cost;
- Projects with a total value of less than \$20,000 - Exempt from co-funding (although any level of contribution is encouraged) for up to 100% of the eligible project cost. Note: this applies to Community Investment applications only.

Infrastructure Projects Stream Summary**Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must have an Australian ABN and be either a local governing body or a not for profit organisation established for at least two years. Joint applications are possible: a lead organisation must be chosen and meet the eligibility criteria, submit the application and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the project partners.

The project must be an investment ready capital project involving the construction of new infrastructure or the upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure.

The project must be located outside the excluded area defined as the Significant Urban Areas of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra.

All projects, unless granted an exceptional circumstance co-funding exemption, must demonstrate cash co-funding, excluding in-kind contributions.

Activities must relate directly to the project, must occur only during the project period, and can include: purchase of materials, external labour hire, plant and equipment hire, external consulting costs directly related to delivery of the project.

Selection process

Projects are assessed, and must score highly, against the following merit criteria:

- Economic benefit - Weighting of 15 points
- Social benefit - Weighting of 10 points
- Value for money - Weighting of 5 points
- Project delivery - Weighting of 5 points

Projects are also scored relative to project size, complexity and grant amount requested, with projects of similar size ranked against each other. A loading is given to each project according to its remoteness. Project sizes are categorised as:

- Total project cost under \$1 million
- Total project cost \$1 million to \$5 million
- Total project cost over \$5 million

The Ministerial Panel may consider other factors such as spread of projects and funding across regions, regional impact, similar projects to avoid duplication, the extent to which the project supports or builds on other projects/services in the region, risk to the Australian Government, and/or the Australian Government's priorities.

BBRF Round 1 – Infrastructure Projects

Round One of BBRF opened on 18 January 2017 and applications for Infrastructure Projects closed on the 28 February 2017.

On 14 March 2017, Regions SA received a list of South Australia's applications to the Infrastructure Projects stream of BBRF and provided advice on the projects' alignment to State Government priorities.

There were 62 South Australian applications with a total value of \$160,895,736. The value of BBRF funding sought for these projects was \$83,323,178.

The funding offers were announced in August 2017, and 11 applications from South Australia were successful, or about 17 percent. The total amount of approved grant funding for these projects is \$12,143,790 and the total cost is \$26,068,674.

Two of the projects that were identified as strongly aligning or aligning to State Government priorities were successful; they were:

- Elliston to Wudinna Fibre Radio Communications System (Note: the South Australian Government committed \$100,000 to this project from the Regional Development Fund);
- Making Connections, building capacity – Victor Harbor Men's Shed;
- Kangaroo Island Sculpture Trail.

BBRF Round 2 – Infrastructure Projects

Round Two of BBRF opened for applications on 7 November and closed on 19 December 2017.

Regions SA received a list of South Australia's applications to Round 2 of BBRF and provided advice to DIIS on the projects' alignment to State Government priorities.

There were 61 South Australian applications to the Infrastructure Projects stream. The total value of these applications is \$196,485,585 and the total value of funding sought is \$92,327,262.

To date, the result of Round 2 of BBRF has not been announced.

Community Investments Stream Summary

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must have an Australian ABN and be either a local governing body or a not for profit organisation. Joint applications are possible: a lead organisation must be chosen and meet the eligibility criteria, submit the application and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the project partners.

The project must be investment ready and fund community building activities including, but not limited to, new or expanded local events, strategic regional plans, and regional leadership and capability building.

The project must be located outside the excluded area defined as the Significant Urban Areas of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra. Where the project has no physical location, a location must be nominated based on where the majority of the project's benefit will flow.

All projects, except projects with a total value of less than \$20,000 or unless granted an exceptional circumstance co-funding exemption, must demonstrate cash co-funding, excluding in-kind contributions

Activities must relate directly to the project, must occur only during the project period, and must be new to the community or a significant extension to current activity, delivering significant new benefits.

Selection process

Projects are assessed, and must score highly, against the following merit criteria:

- Economic benefit - Weighting of 15 points
- Social benefit - Weighting of 10 points
- Value for money - Weighting of 5 points
- Project delivery - Weighting of 5 points

Projects are also scored relative to project size, complexity and grant amount requested, with projects of similar size ranked against each other. Project sizes are categorised as:

- Total project cost between \$5,000 and \$20,000
- Total project cost between \$20,001 and \$100,000
- Total project cost over \$100,000

A loading is given to each project according to its remoteness classification. Very remote projects receive the highest loading, inner regional projects the lowest loading, major cities projects no loading.

The Ministerial Panel may consider other factors such as spread of projects and funding across regions, regional impact, similar projects to avoid duplication, the extent to which the project supports or builds on other projects/services in the region, risk to the Australian Government, and/or the Australian Government's priorities.

BBRF Round 1 – Community Investment

Round One of BBRF opened on 18 January 2017 and applications for the Community Investments stream closed on the 31 March 2017.

On 21 April 2017, Regions SA received a list of South Australia's applications and provided advice of the projects alignment to State Government priorities.

There were 41 South Australian applications to the Community Investments stream. The total value of these applications is \$8,664,204 and the value of BBRF funding sought for these projects is \$5,910,440.

The funding offers were announced in September 2017, and 16 of the applications from South Australia were successful, or about 39 percent. The total amount of funding allocated for these projects is \$586,024 and the total cost of these projects is \$902,682.

Five of the projects that were identified as strongly aligning or aligning to State Government priorities were successful; they were:

- Corporation of the City of Port Augusta: Upgrade of Central Oval;
- District Council of Mount Remarkable: Rail trail development research study;
- Northern Plains Compass Incorporated: Northern Plains Food Festival;
- Rural Business Support Service Incorporated: Building business capability and connections on Eyre Peninsula;
- Livestock SA Incorporated: South Australian Beef Cattle Industry Blueprint.

BBRF Round 2 – Community Investments

Round Two of BBRF opened for applications on 7 November and closed on 19 December 2017.

Regions SA received a list of South Australia's applications to Round 2 of BBRF and provided advice to DIIS on the projects' alignment to State Government priorities.

There were 21 South Australian applications to the Community Investments stream of BBRF Round 2. The total value of these applications is \$1,377,989 and the value of funding sought totals \$809,879.

To date, the result of Round 2 of BBRF has not been announced.



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Ref: A4952660

For	Action
Critical Date	Nil
Subject	Federal Budget leveraging opportunities for regional development in South Australia

Synopsis

The Federal Budget was released on Tuesday 11 May 2021 and has been reviewed to identify immediate leveraging opportunities to add value to existing South Australian regional development initiatives.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note this briefing which provides you with advice on the Federal Budget regarding regional funding programs.
2. Note the advice on programs and future steps recommended by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions to be delivered under the auspices of the regional development portfolio and alignment with the Regional Development Strategy.
3. Provide advice to the Department on future programs to be delivered by the Department, including potential uses of the Regional Growth Fund.

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

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Hon David Basham MP

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

/ / 2021

Ministerial Comments

Background

- The Commonwealth Treasurer delivered the 2021-22 Federal Budget – A plan to secure Australia’s recovery – on Tuesday 11 May 2021.
- The Budget focuses on maintaining the momentum of Australia’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, by supporting jobs and guaranteeing services. The Commonwealth Government views the 2021-22 Federal Budget as the next stage of its economic plan to secure Australia’s recovery.
- The Commonwealth Government’s priorities include women’s safety and economic security; infrastructure building to secure Australia’s future; the digital economy; workforce development; support for the creative and cultural sector; aged care reform; secure and affordable energy; disaster resilience; and agriculture, with a particular focus on biosecurity.

Discussion

- The Federal Budget has several regional initiatives for which there could be leveraging opportunities for South Australia and that align with both the Regional Development Strategy and South Australia’s Growth State initiative.
- Some of these opportunities may require Government of South Australia funding and / or matching funds, which might be sourced from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) or through other budget allocations.

Commonwealth Government Budget Measures – New Initiatives

Out of scope



Out of scope

- **BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND**

The Commonwealth Government has committed an additional \$250 million towards a sixth round of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), bringing the total commitment for this program to \$1.29 billion from 2017-18 to 2024-25. The BBRF supports regional and remote communities by funding shovel-ready infrastructure projects up to the value of \$10 million, which will create jobs and drive economic growth. It also funds up to \$1 million for new or expanded events, strategic regional plans, or leadership and capability strengthening activities which provide economic and social benefits across the relevant region. Local governments and incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply.

The design of Round 6 has not yet been announced, however, historically applications to the BBRF are open for a specific period and eligible organisations are required to submit a letter of support from any co-funding organisations. There is potential to leverage the Regional Growth Fund, but the Government of South Australia would need to provide an early and clear public statement on collaboration and partnering opportunities to enable assessment to occur within the constraints of the BBRF timeframes. If the Government of South Australia were considering leveraging the BBRF, an approach to the Commonwealth Government to discuss enabling sufficient time for consideration of funding sources could be considered and designed.

Out of scope

Out of scope



Out of scope



Out of scope



Out of scope

Government of South Australia measures for consideration

Out of scope

- The Department advises that there are some key priority areas for which initiatives and programs may be developed, as follows:

Out of scope

Out of scope

- ***Building Better Regions*** – Consideration of leveraging the state’s priorities for business recovery with the Commonwealth.

Out of scope

Consultation and engagement

- Consultation was undertaken with the Department’s Regional Coordinators.

Out of scope

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

/ / 2021

CONTACT	Maria Durkay
POSITION	A/Director
DIVISION	Regions
MOBILE and LANDLINE	0418 806 157 and 8429 0363
PREPARED BY	Daniela Marschall