

Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative: Frequently Asked Questions

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Words capitalised in this document are defined terms in the glossary of the Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative Applicant Guidelines.

1. What is Green Urban Infrastructure?

Green Urban Infrastructure refers to a network of multifunctional green spaces and natural elements integrated within urban environments. This can include:

- street trees and streetscape vegetation
- pedestrian paths and cycleways and other active transport promoting infrastructure which includes green infrastructure as part of its design
- bioswales, rain gardens and other Water Sensitive Urban Design measures
- shade and urban cooling features that mitigate localised Urban Heat Island Effects (for example tree canopy and green ground cover)
- waterways and waterbodies
- bushland, parks and open spaces servicing the urban area.

The Guidance Note: Green Urban Infrastructure is available on the Initiative's webpage to provide further information on Green Urban Infrastructure and where to go for guidance on best practice.

2. What kinds of costs are eligible for payment through the Initiative?

Eligible Project Costs includes both Capital Costs and Other Eligible Project Costs directly associated with the Project's delivery, for example:

- Capital Costs (construction and planting, and other works defined in the Applicant Guidelines)
- concept design and detailed planning (i.e. production of final 'For construction' designs)
- costs of conducting a tender for the approved works
- Project contingency and escalation costs
- Project Evaluation
- Project transition for inclusion in the Asset Base

A breakdown of Eligible Project Costs can be found in Appendix 2 of the Applicant Guidelines.

3. When can Eligible Project Costs be incurred?

Eligible Project Costs can be incurred from the Project Start Date which can commence no earlier than the date Applicant Guidelines were released, being 30 September 2024. Any costs incurred prior to an executed Project Funding Agreement are at the Applicant's own risk.

4. Do I need to provide a funding contribution to be considered for funding?

Yes, there is a minimum co-contribution requirement. Applicants must at a minimum match the funding sought from the Initiative. At least 50% of the Applicant's minimum co-contribution must be used towards Capital Costs, the balance must be used towards Other Eligible Project Costs.

5. Are in-kind contributions counted towards the minimum co-contribution?

No, in-kind contributions do not count towards the Applicant's minimum co-contribution. The minimum co-contribution must be a direct financial contribution to the costs of the Project.

6. Can contingency costs be included in the Project budget?

Yes, Applicants should include a contingency allowance to cover unforeseen expenditures and are expected to set the level of contingency appropriate to the stage of the Project. Refer to the Applicant Guidelines for details and limits.

7. Are there restrictions on receiving additional funding from other government sources for the same Project?

Applications may include third-party funding including additional funding from other Australian and Queensland Government sources, however this funding cannot be used to replace the Applicant's minimum co-contribution. Applicants will need to consider how costs can be reported to ensure transparency and accountability of any grant funding either from the Initiative or other Australian and Queensland Government sources.

Where third-party funding is being leveraged this could be included as part of the Applicant's response as to how the Project will provide public Benefit based on the scale, impact and location of the Project.

8. How will Applicants know if they are invited to submit a Detailed Application?

Applicants will be notified in writing if they have been invited to submit a Detailed Application. It is anticipated that this will be in February 2025.

9. Can I amend my submitted application?

You can amend your submitted application up until the EOI closing date; however you must contact the Initiative's Program Manager at GreenInfrastructure@dasilgp.qld.gov.au for changes as you will not be able to change directly through SmartyGrants. For this reason, it may be preferable to save your EOI application in SmartyGrants until you are confident all the information is provided and correct before submitting.

In addition, if you are submitting two EOIs you may want to wait until both EOIs are completed and saved so you can appropriately prioritise which is your preferred Project before submitting both.

Applicant changes to the EOI after the closing date will not be accepted and the department is under no obligation to allow an Applicant to provide any additional information. However, if an Applicant discovers an error after submitting an EOI they should contact the Program Manager promptly at GreenInfrastructure@dasilgp.qld.gov.au.

10. What happens if I am invited to Detailed Application but the scope of the Project changes from what it was at the EOI stage

The Green Urban Infrastructure Initiative is a competitive grant, Projects are invited to Detailed Application based on the assessment of the EOI including the Project's proposed scope (the Project description in the EOI). Should a substantial change occur in the Project's scope from EOI to Detailed Application this may require a reassessment of the EOI. Subject to a decision by the department's delegate, the invitation to Detailed Application may be withdrawn if the reassessment results in the Project receiving a lower ranking in the prioritised Project list.

11. What is the minimum Estimated Total Project Cost for a Project?

The Estimated Total Project Cost must be a minimum of \$2 million for any Application. This equates to \$1 million from the Queensland Government as Initiative funding plus \$1 million as council's minimum co-contribution.

12. Will funds be paid in arrears?

Initiative funds will be paid under a Project Funding Schedule and payments will be on the completion of milestones which may be different for each successful Project and may or may not be in arrears depending on the milestone.

As an example, the first milestone could be the signing of the Project Funding Schedule which triggers an initial payment agreed between the Queensland Government and the successful Applicant.

The amount of each milestone payment will be discussed with each Applicant if invited to Detailed Application and set out in the Project Funding Schedule. Milestone payments will be scheduled to support Project delivery as well as ensuring accountability for the public funds.

13. Can multiple sites be permitted under one Application as a single eligible Project?

Yes, a multi-site Project can be submitted under the one Application, however Applicants should consider all the requirements in the Applicant Guidelines when applying, noting the Initiative is competitive. A multi-site Project would still need to demonstrate how it could meet all the assessment criteria, be able to undertake Project Evaluation and deliver best practice in green infrastructure as well as the other requirements in the Applicant Guidelines.

To add additional sites to the EOI use the “add more” button under the section “Project Site” (sections 5.1 – 5.3). If there is further information about the site/s to support the EOI this can be added as additional documentation at the end of the EOI under section 8.

14. Can watering systems to support implementation of the greening or plant growth be considered an Eligible Project Cost covered under Capital Costs?

Yes, watering systems can be considered an Eligible Project Cost related to planting and construction (“Capital Cost” per Appendix 2 of the Applicant Guidelines) if it is required to support plant growth.

In general, water sensitive urban design measures are encouraged where possible as part of the green infrastructure, the Guidance Note on our website has links to where you can find some examples https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0028/96751/Green-Urban-Infrastructure-Initiative-Guidance-Note.pdf

In addition, we’ve been able to include an option for “Project transition for inclusion in the Asset Base”, it can include additional watering of vegetation after planting is complete to establish plants, particularly if there was a period before it was under regular asset management/ maintenance. There are limitations to how much can be used towards “Project transition”. Appendix 2 of the Applicant Guidelines has the limits under “Other Eligible Project Costs”, noting there are different limits applied for the funding sought (Queensland Government contribution) and Applicant’s co-contribution.

