



Local Government and Shires Association Tourism Conference

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Federal Funding and Partnerships

Regional Partnerships Programme

Presented by: Narelle Wheatland, GROW Sydney ACC

To find **Federal Government** grant opportunities for funding for Tourism related projects your first stop would be the **Australian Tourism Development Fund** through AusIndustry (see www.ausindustry.gov.au - Industry Products)

Round 3 has not been announced as yet but the department is expecting a possible launch in April 2006. Watch the website for more information or subscribe on line for email updates on the ATDP. There may be some small changes to the next round but as a general guide us the Round 2 information. This funding has two categories:

1. Tourism Project – to encourage improved tourism product. Available to business operators. Up to \$100,000 maximum grant.
2. Integrated Tourism Development Projects – From \$100,000 to \$500,000.

This program is extremely competitive but you cannot access other Regional Partnerships grants unless you either have been unsuccessful in obtaining an ATDP grant or are not eligible.

What is the Regional Partnerships (RP) programme?

Regional Partnerships commenced on 1 July 2003. RP is a funding programme that seeks to:

- strengthen growth and opportunities;
- improve access to services;
- support planning; and
- assist structural adjustment.

Who IS eligible to apply for RP Funding?

Entities registered under State or Commonwealth legislation, such as the *Corporations Act 2001* (with some exceptions) can apply. This includes:

- Non-profit organisations;
- Local Government;
- Co-operatives; Associations
- Community Councils (Indigenous Councils);
- Registered charities;
- Private sector (except for planning).

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Who is NOT eligible to apply for RP Funding?

- Area Consultative Committees;
- Commonwealth and State Government Departments;
- Individuals;
- Private enterprise and co-operatives that are considered commercial enterprises, requesting funding for planning, studies and research; or
- Third parties seeking funds on behalf of others.

Who is the Decision Maker? The funding of projects through Regional Partnerships is at the discretion of the Minister of Transport and Regional Services.

Meeting the assessment criteria does NOT guarantee funding.

Assessment Criteria - Priority will be given to those projects that demonstrate value for money and meet the following assessment criteria (see the Guidelines for more information):

1. Strong Outcomes and Regional Benefit;
2. Good Partnerships and Support;
3. Project and Applicant Viability; and
4. Sustainability.

Assessment Criteria - Additional information to support the application such as business plans, financial records, board records etc will be required if the project is:

- from a private sector and/or for-profit entity;
- seeking more than \$250,000 from Regional Partnerships; and/or
- a project that will operate in a commercial environment.

Ineligible Projects - Funding can not be considered for projects that:

- compete with existing businesses;
- request funding for generic economic and community development officers;
- request funding to cover retrospective costs;
- have elements of cost shifting; and
- seek funding for the development of other applications for funding.

Application Process

On-the-ground support to develop projects and funding applications is available through your ACC, who can assist applicants directly. See www.acc.gov.au for your local ACC.

Applications for RP funding are made to the DOTARS.

The application can be made on-line in TRAX or emailed to regionalpartnerships@dotars.gov.au using the downloadable application form.

There are no funding rounds in RP - it is a rolling process.

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TRAX is DOTARS new online application process.

- it is preferred that applications are submitted on-line as it will reduce the response time;
- the TRAX Hot Line, Help Desk and your ACC are available to assist you in entering your application onto the system if necessary (1800 005 494);
- TRAX requires brief and concise descriptions only; and
- any supporting documentation can be emailed separately to the Department.

Retrospectivity

RP will not fund an activity that has already been undertaken or for goods already purchased. An activity that has already occurred or goods that have already been purchased should not be included in the application and should not comprise part of the overall project.

NB: Applicants should not commence a project that require RP funding until a contract has been signed.

Cost Shifting

An activity that should be funded by someone else eg. Local/State Government, other Australian Government body, is not eligible under RP;

Cost shifting applies to costs that organisations might reasonably be expected to make provision for (eg. maintenance or replacement of equipment) or costs that receive funding from other sources (eg. roads).

Value for money

Value for money is assessed by balancing the funding amount requested against:

- The degree to which the project meets the assessment criteria;
- Whether it will provide an efficient and effective delivery of regional benefit;
- Whether Government funding being used in the most efficient and effective way in terms of outcomes; and
- The degree to which it is a priority at regional, State and/or Australian Government level.

Useful Information

Regional Partnerships website www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au

(includes Guidelines, down-loadable application form and access to TRAX, the online system)

Commonwealth Regional Information Service (CRIS): [Freecall 1800 026 222](tel:1800026222)

Area Consultative Committees across Australia: www.acc.gov.au

GROW Sydney ACC: [Telephone 9890 7806](tel:98907806) or www.grow.org.au

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Sourcing and Securing Partnership Funding