

Webinar to start at 11:00am AEST





ARENA acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country across Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to elders past and present.



Australian Government
Australian Renewable
Energy Agency

ARENA

Regional Microgrids Program

Information Session
September 2023



Introductions

Darren Miller
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Dan Sturrock
Director - Business Development and Transactions

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction to ARENA
2. Program Overview
3. ARENA's Assessment Process
4. Eligibility Criteria
5. Merit Criteria
6. Key Dates & Links
7. Q&A



1. Welcome and Introduction to ARENA

2. Program Overview

Regional Microgrids Program Funding

First Nations Community Microgrids Program Budget Measure

The October 2022-23 Federal Budget allocated \$75 million in grant funding to ARENA for the First Nations Community Microgrids Program Budget Measure to develop and deploy microgrids across First Nations communities to increase access to cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy.



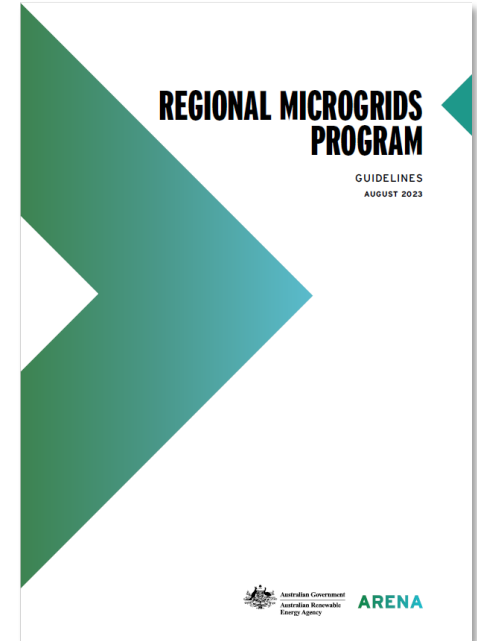
Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots Program (RAMPP)

Funding from the former RAMPP has been re-allocated under the new Program

Go to

<https://arena.gov.au/funding/rmp>

Or use QR code



Program Overview – Structure

The Regional Microgrids Program (**RMP**) is delivered under two streams

- Stream A: Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots - \$50 million
- Stream B: First Nations Community Microgrids - \$75 million

The Total Funding Allocation for the Program is up to a total amount of \$125 million, and ARENA will review and assess applications on an ongoing basis, until all funds available under the Program are exhausted or the Guidelines are revoked.

ARENA reserves the right to allocate an amount of funding that is lower than the Total Funding Allocation or to reallocate funding from Stream A to Stream B if there is an insufficient number of high merit Proposals received under Stream A. ARENA may, at its discretion, allocate an amount of funding greater than the Total Funding Allocation if it considers this to represent value for money.

Program Overview – Outcomes

Each Stream within the Program has its own Outcomes, which are collectively referred to as Program Outcomes

Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots (Stream A)

- a. Innovation and/or acceleration of the development and deployment of equipment and technology solutions that enable the coordinated use of distributed renewable energy technologies.
- b. Improved resilience and reliability of electricity supply in regional areas.
- c. Resolving one or more of the remaining barriers to deployment of microgrid solutions.

First Nations Community Microgrids (Stream B)

- a. Reduced cost of energy and other community benefits in First Nations Communities.
- b. Cleaner and more reliable energy in First Nations Communities.
- c. First Nations Communities are empowered to participate in their electricity supply arrangements and the development of energy infrastructure.
- d. Resolving one or more of the remaining barriers to final investment and full deployment of microgrid solutions.

Program Overview – Grant Amount

The Total Funding Allocation for the Program is up to a total amount of \$125 million

	Regional Australia Microgrid Pilots (Stream A)	First Nations Community Microgrids (Stream B)
Total Grant Funding	\$50m	\$75m
Minimum Grant	\$1m	\$1m
Expected Grant Range	\$5m – \$10m ¹	\$5m – \$25m ¹
Grant Amount	Up to 50% ²	Up to 50% ²

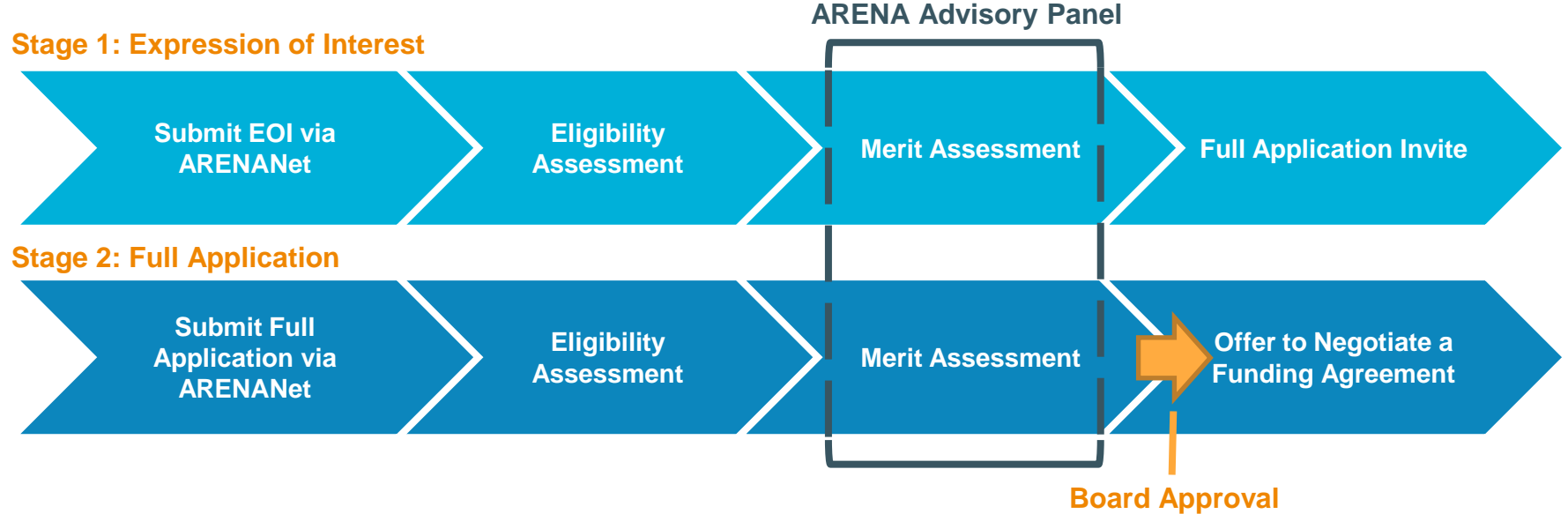
¹ ARENA will provide the minimum amount of funding to allow the Project to proceed

² In general, ARENA expects grant amounts of no more than 50% however, grant amounts of more than 50% may still be considered in this Program



3. ARENA's Assessment Process

ARENA's 2-stage Assessment Process



4. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criterion A: Eligible Applicant

Eligibility Criterion B: Eligible Project

Eligibility Criterion C: Take Place In Australia

Eligibility Criterion D: Intellectual Property

Eligibility Criterion E: Knowledge Sharing

Eligibility Criterion F: Compliance With Other Requirements

Eligibility Criteria A – Eligible Applicant

The Applicant must:

- a. at the time of applying and throughout the life of the Project, hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and
- b. be either:
 - i. an Australian entity incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth);
 - ii. an Australian State or Territory Government;
 - iii. an Australian local government or council;
 - iv. an Australian State or Territory owned corporation or a subsidiary of an Australian State or Territory owned corporation;
 - v. an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth);
 - vi. the Torres Strait Regional Authority or Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation established under the Australian and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 (Cth);
 - vii. an Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Land Trust or Torres Strait Islander Land Trust (or equivalent entity) established under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation;
 - viii. an Australian entity incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act;
 - ix. an Australian university; or
 - x. the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Eligibility Criteria B – Eligible Project

The Applicant must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of ARENA that the Project described in the Application:

Deployment

Includes the deployment of equipment and/or technology solutions that enable the Project

Renewable Energy

Includes the use of a Renewable Energy technology or enabling technology and/or the Project contributes to increased uptake of Renewable Energy

Location

Is located in an inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote area as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Area

Eligibility Criteria C, D & E

The Applicant must:

Eligibility Criteria C

Demonstrate that the majority of Project activities will take place in Australia

Eligibility Criteria D

Warrant it has ownership of, access to, or the beneficial use of, any intellectual property rights, including moral rights (IP) necessary to carry out the Project

Eligibility Criteria E

Agree to publicly share knowledge and information about, and resulting from, the Project described in the Application.

Eligibility Criteria F – Compliance With Other Requirements

The Applicant must:

Gender Equality

Not be named as an organisation that has not complied with the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (Cth)

Modern Slavery

Make a declaration in the Application form that it will meet these requirements in relation to the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)

Legal proceedings

Disclose any legal proceedings or investigation taking place, pending or threatened against the Applicant or a related body corporate as defined in the Corporations Act 2001(Cth)

Sanctions Laws

Not have contravened any Australian Sanctions Laws



5. Merit Assessment



Merit Criteria

Merit Criterion A: Contribution to Program Outcomes

Merit Criterion B: Applicant capability and capacity

Merit Criterion C: Project design and methodology

Merit Criterion D: Financial viability and co-funding commitment

Merit Criterion E: Knowledge Sharing

Merit Criterion A - Contribution to Program Outcomes (Stream A)

Applicants can demonstrate merit by describing how the Project contributes to the Program Outcomes

Support technical innovation

Innovation and/or acceleration of the **development** and **deployment** of equipment and technology solutions that enable the coordinated use of distributed **renewable energy technologies**

Electricity Resilience and Reliability

Improved **resilience** and **reliability** of electricity supply in regional areas

Microgrid Barriers

Resolving one or more of the remaining **barriers** to deployment of **microgrid solutions**

Merit Criterion A - Contribution to Program Outcomes (Stream B)

Applicants can demonstrate merit by describing how the Project contributes to the Program Outcomes

Reduced cost of energy

Reduced cost of energy and **other community benefits** in First Nations Communities

Cleaner energy

Cleaner and more **reliable** electricity supply in **First Nations** Communities

Empowered Communities

First Nations Communities are **empowered to participate** in their electricity supply arrangements and the **development of energy infrastructure**

Microgrid Barriers

Resolving one or more of the remaining **barriers** to deployment of **microgrid solutions**

Merit Criterion B - Applicant Capability and Capacity

Applicant and its partner organisations have the capability and capacity to deliver the Project.

Capability

For Applicant and partner organisation(s):

- Appropriate **expertise** as relevant to the Project - including project management, technical, regulatory, commercial, financial, knowledge sharing and risk management expertise and experience of the key personnel
- Previous **experience** delivering similar projects, in terms of scale, value, technologies or solution deployed (in Australia or internationally)

Capacity

Access to appropriate resources including physical resources and facilities, equipment, technical staff, etc. to deliver the Project on time and within budget.

Cultural Competency (Stream B)

Cultural competency of personnel and/or organisation to engage with **First Nations Communities** and plans or processes in place to ensure **cultural competency**

Merit Criterion C - Project Design and Methodology

The purpose of this Merit Criterion is to assess how well the Applicant has designed and planned the Project.

Project Design

Design and delivery methodology of the Project, including a **well-articulated** Project Plan

Risk Management

Quality and appropriateness of the **Risk Management Plan** including how the Applicant will manage **safety issues**

Community Engagement

Quality and appropriateness of the Project's **Community Engagement Plan**

Community Benefit (Stream B)

Quality of the **Community Benefit Plan**

Merit Criterion D - Financial Viability and Co-funding Commitment

Project's value for money, financial ability of the Applicant and any Project partners, and certainty of Project costs.

Value for Money

Value for money against relevant benchmarks

Financial capacity

Whether the Applicant and any Project Partners have the **financial capacity** and **appropriate levels of co-funding** commitment to deliver the Project successfully

Co-funding

The extent to which the Applicant or other Project Partners are **providing funding** or **in-kind support** for the Project

Long-term

Capacity to **operate** and maintain the system over its **lifetime**

Merit Criterion E – Knowledge Sharing

This criterion assesses:

Value

Value of the knowledge generated by the project in contributing to the Program Outcomes

Audience

How well that knowledge is targeted to **specific audiences**

Methodology

How you will capture, store and disseminate the data, information and **lessons learned** from the project

Capacity Building (Stream B)

How the knowledge generated in the Project will build community capacity

Application Attachments

Attachment	Expression of Interest		Full Application	
	Stream A	Stream B	Stream A	Stream B
Project Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial model	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risk Management Plan	Optional	Optional	✓	✓
Community Engagement Plan	Optional	Optional	✓	✓
Funding Agreement Compliance Table	Optional	Optional	✓	✓
Knowledge Sharing Plan	Optional	Optional	✓	✓
Community Benefit Plan	Optional	Optional	Optional	✓
CVs of Key Personnel	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Evidence of financial capacity	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Letters of Support and other evidence	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional



6. Key links and dates

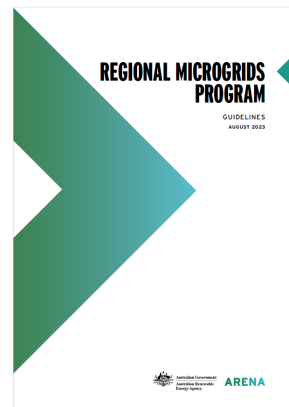
Key Dates & Documents

Program Opened
25 August 2023

All material relevant to the Program can be found on the **ARENA website** under **Funding > Regional Microgrids Program**.

Program Closes
19 December 2025

Applicants can submit questions to ARENA relating to the Program by emailing microgrids@arena.gov.au. Please note, ARENA reserves the right to publish any general questions and answers in this FAQ document.



7. Q&A



End
