

SES Support Grant 2026-27

Funding Guidelines



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Introduction

This guide helps local governments apply for the SES Support Grant. It explains:

- what the SES Support Grant is
- what it can be used for
- how to apply
- when the application must be submitted
- what applicants can expect.

What is the SES Support Grant?

The SES Support Grant is a Queensland Government grant program administered by the Queensland State Emergency Service (SES). The program offers financial support for local governments to dedicate resources to SES groups or units. This helps SES to effectively respond to emergencies in their communities.

Aim

The aim of the SES Support Grant program is to support the partnership between local governments and SES to enable an effective local response to disasters and emergencies.

Objectives

The program objectives are:

- encouraging local governments to work collaboratively with the Queensland Government to support the SES to effectively and efficiently respond to disasters and emergencies
- assisting in the provision of facilities for training, operations and safe storage of SES equipment
- encouraging local governments to contribute additional resources for disaster and emergency management in support of SES
- encouraging the development of the local SES with the skills and resources needed to carry out their approved activities
- helping ensure SES resources are allocated where they're needed to meet local needs.

How does it work?

The SES Support Grant program provides funding opportunities for local governments to undertake eligible projects. Here's a summary of how the program operates:

- Local governments can apply for grants through a single annual funding round.
- The Queensland Government will fund:
 - 100% of approved project costs, up to \$150,000 for facilities.
 - 100% of approved project costs, up to \$75,000 for vehicles.
 - No co-contribution is required from local governments.
- For vehicle replacement projects:
 - Local governments are not required to contribute proceeds from the sale or auction of the replaced vehicle.
 - The estimated value of the vehicle must, however, be disclosed in section 4.3 of the application form.
- All procurement processes must comply with the current Queensland Procurement Policy.
- Important: Grants are paid only after the project is completed and acquitted. This means

local governments must initially fund the project themselves.

What can the funds be used for?

Local governments can apply for funds under the SES Support Grant program to:

- provide suitable facilities for SES groups or units in their area
- acquire suitable new and second-hand vehicles for local SES groups or units.

In some cases, funding may be approved for projects that don't fit these categories. See '[Funding for special consideration projects](#)' for more information.

What's the timeframe?

Applications open in early October each year and close in late November. Successful projects are announced from April the following year. Projects can start from 1 July 2026 after funding is confirmed and must be completed by 30 June 2027.

Successful projects must not start before the official commencement of 01 July 2026, unless under special circumstances, written approval from SES is gained.

See the key dates and [timeline](#) for the 2026-27 round for details.

How do I apply?

Download this year's application form from www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant. Complete the application form accurately and include all required supporting documents. Once ready, send your submission to grants@ses.qld.gov.au.

Read these funding guidelines thoroughly before applying. This document is updated every year.

What happens after that?

The SES Support Grant Assessment Panel assesses and prioritises applications from across the state. Regional directors provide input as part of the process. The panel makes a recommendation to the Chief Officer SES for endorsement.

All applicants are advised of the outcome of their application in writing.

Before you apply

Who can apply?

All local governments in Queensland with SES groups or units in their area are eligible to apply for the SES Support Grant.

Can local governments apply for funding for a project that's already started?

The project won't be eligible for funding if it's already started or completed before formal notification of grant approval, unless SES has provided written approval.

Can local governments apply for funding for an inactive SES group?

Local governments can apply for a grant for an inactive group if it'll be re-established within 12 months of submitting the application. The SES regional director for that group needs to give written approval as part of the application.

Consult with stakeholders

Before applying, stakeholder consultation should include:

- Developing the application in consultation with the local controller of the unit to make sure the proposed project meets the unit's capability needs. The local controller needs to provide their endorsement in the application form.
- Endorsement from the local government's chief executive officer, chief financial officer, or authorised delegate.
- If applying for a grant for a facility, talking to:
 - any other groups or parties that use the facility
 - the landowner, if the land is not owned by the applicant local government.

Suitable projects

Facilities projects

What is and isn't included

Local governments can apply for funding to support the development of essential operational and training facilities for SES groups or units. A facility project refers to fixed infrastructure projects, such as constructing sheds, completing fit-outs, shelving, storage, or adding fencing.

Grant funds **can** be used for:

- ✓ purchasing land or a facility
- ✓ construction of a new facility
- ✓ modification, renovation or extension of an existing facility.

Grant funds **can't** be used for:

- ✗ preliminary analysis or review work including:
 - ✗ concept plans
 - ✗ designs
 - ✗ surveyance
 - ✗ assessments.

Facilities for SES must have space for:

- training

- administration
- an operations centre
- suitable amenities
- secure storage for resources and equipment.

Local governments are responsible for ensuring adequate insurance cover for the project.

See the below 'Ineligible items' section for a more comprehensive list of projects and items that will not be funded.

What to do before applying

- Seek professional advice on the project's:
 - design
 - cost
 - construction
 - site requirements.
- Ensure the project can commence on or after 1 July 2026 and will be completed by 30 June 2027.
- Secure other financial contributions for the project, if needed.
- Make sure there's appropriate insurance cover in place.
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Ensure that all required procurement will meet the current Queensland Procurement Policy requirements.
- Get a quote for the cost of the project, as per the [quote guidelines](#).

Vehicles projects

What is and isn't included

Local governments can apply for funding to purchase suitable vehicles to support the operations of SES groups or units in their area. A vehicle project refers to the acquisition of land-based vehicles, such as buses, four wheel drive utilities and all-terrain vehicles.

Grant funds **can** be used for:

- ✓ purchasing a suitable new or second-hand vehicle
- ✓ modifications and additions to vehicles, such as ladder loaders and fixed canopies.
- ✓ Freight and delivery costs, within reason.

Grant funds **can't** be used for:

- ✗ leased vehicles.
- ✗ transferring ownership of a vehicle from the local government fleet.
- ✗ Trailers, unless they are specifically for all terrain vehicles.

See the below 'Ineligible items' section for a more comprehensive list of projects and items that will not be funded.

Vehicles purchased for SES must:

- be a 4WD (unless it is a bus)
- be suitable for SES activities
- be badged in accordance with SES requirements
- be registered and insured – either through SES or the applicant local government.

Queensland Government plates are optional but recommended.

- Be allocated to the local SES group or unit as an official SES vehicle
- be maintained and serviced by the applicant local government
- be used for SES activities only
- be stored in a location that prolongs the vehicle's condition
- have any additional features needed for local conditions, such as off-road and cross-country capabilities
- where relevant, have sufficient towing and load capacity to safely and legally tow the trailers and vessels in the SES group's or unit's fleet.

What to do before applying

- Get a quote for the cost of the project.
- Obtain an accurate estimate of the funding expected from the sale or trade-in of the vehicle being replaced, if applicable. For example, from the auctioneer or using RedBook.
- Make sure the purchase can be completed within 12 months from 1 July 2026.
- Secure other financial contributions to the project, if needed.
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Ensure that all required procurement will meet the current Queensland Procurement Policy requirements.

Ineligible items

The following projects and items are ineligible for funding:

- Vessels, caravans and trailers (unless it's included as part of the QPS approved all-terrain vehicle package).
- Operational equipment already supplied by SES.
- Information and communication technology specific projects.
- Items ordered, committed to, or purchased before funding approval, unless explicitly approved in writing by SES.
- Equipment, services, or activities benefiting individuals, including alcohol, vouchers, gifts, or prizes.
- Operating costs, such as general recurring expenses (e.g., insurance, rent, lease costs), travel, events and travel (unless it is for a contractor to complete required project work).
- Income generation activities, such as, subsidies or sponsorships.
- Costs related to grant preparation, such as application fees or associated documentation.
- Fees for services, preliminary analysis or review work, including concept plans, designs, surveys, or assessments.
- Consumables and administrative expenses, such as food, office supplies, petrol, or prepaid/store cards.
- Projects outside Queensland.
- Projects or items that do not directly support SES in delivering high-quality emergency and disaster management services.

Inclusion of staff wages

Local government staff wages (including project management) are considered eligible expenses if they are explicitly referenced as a labour line item in quotes accepted with the submitted

application. This does not include wages relating to:

- completion of the Support Grant application
- preliminary assessments and project scoping
- any other activities undertaken before the project's approval and the official start date of 1 July.

All other local government staff wages are considered ineligible.

Funding for special consideration projects

Funding may be approved for projects that don't fit clearly within either the vehicle or facility project category. The local government must request consideration for special consideration projects in writing (on the local government letterhead) when applying.

These are considered on a case-by-case basis. Factors for decision-making include local government income and the expected benefit for the community.

We encourage you to get in touch with SES Grants and Subsidies as soon as possible if you have a special consideration request.

Are there application limits?

Local governments can submit as many applications as they want for each annual round.

Applicants should rank these projects in order of importance in section 2 of the application form.

Local governments can also submit applications for SES groups or units with an in-progress SES Support Grant funded project from a previous funding round.

What are the key dates for this round?

Applications open: 7 October 2025

Applications close: 27 November 2025

Grant outcomes announced: From April 2026

Timeline

Severe weather events and state emergencies are always the priority for SES, which could affect the below indicative timeline.

October 2025	Applications open for SES Support Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local governments in Queensland receive an email invitation to apply.Launch of the funding round announced on www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant
November 2025	Applications close <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local governments submit applications to SES.SES will send an email acknowledgement of applications.
December 2025	First review <ul style="list-style-type: none">SES reviews applications and asks applicants for more information if needed.Regional directors' opportunity to prioritise and comment on applications in their region.
January – March 2026	Applications assessed and prioritised <ul style="list-style-type: none">SES Support Grant Assessment Panel appraises and recommends successful applications.Approval to award the funding round is sought.
From April 2026	Grant outcome announced <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants notified in writing whether their application is successful or unsuccessful.
July 2026 – June 2027	Project commences <ul style="list-style-type: none">Successful applicants have up to 12 months to complete the project.
April 2027	Last chance for variations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Requests for variation due to SES by 30 April 2027.
June 2027	Project complete and grant payment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Send all acquittal documents to SES by 30 June 2027.Grants are paid when the project is complete and the acquittal has been received, processed and then approved.

How to apply

Prepare your documentation

Quote requirements for all projects

- Each project budget line must have a corresponding quote.
- As a minimum, an acceptable quote must include:
 - business details (e.g., name, ABN, address, and contact information)
 - quote date and quote number.
 - Provide a detailed breakdown of itemised costs and the total cost, ensuring they align with the relevant project budget item the quote pertains to. Include a clear specification of the GST component.
 - Quotes must be valid for at least 60-90 days from the application submission due date.
- All quotes must be written quotes issued by the potential supplier
- Quotes from local governments for completing project works will be considered; however, applicants must ensure that these quotes adhere to the current Queensland Procurement Policy and the criteria outlined above.

Eligible contingency rate

Due to the period between when quotes are sourced and when successful projects can commence it has been determined that a contingency cost could be included in the project budget. An eligible contingency rate is 10% of the total project cost, up to the relevant project funding limit.

Additional documentation for facilities

Documentation to support applications for facilities projects must include any of the following that apply:

- A letter of support from the landowner, unless the applicant local government owns the land.
- If there are multiple occupants, complete section 3.2 of the application form.
- If the project is partly funded by an SES support entity, such as a Support Group or Social Club, documentation must include an SES Support Entity Endorsement form. The form is available at www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant.

Additional documentation for vehicles

Documentation to support applications for vehicle purchase projects must include:

- Provide evidence of the trade-in or sale valuation for any vehicle being replaced. This will support the information provided in section 4.3 of the application form.
- If the project is partly funded by an SES support entity, such as a Support Group or Social Club, documentation must include an SES Support Entity Endorsement form. The form is available at www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant.

Score your own application

Check the application against the [Assessment Criteria](#) in Appendix II. This is the same criterion the panel uses to assess applications. See [Appendix I: How projects are assessed](#) for details on how the panel assesses applications.

Application checklist

Before emailing your application to grants@ses.qld.gov.au, check:

- ☐ Have you downloaded the current round application form from www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant?
- ☐ Are you submitting this application form for one project?
- ☐ Have you read and understood the terms and conditions outlined in the application form, as well as the requirements in this funding guidelines?
- ☐ Is the project considered eligible?
- ☐ Is the SES group or unit active or expected to be active within a year?
- ☐ Has the project been sufficiently scoped, including relevant stakeholder consultation?
- ☐ Are all the required fields complete?
- ☐ Has the project already started? If so, the application may not be eligible.
- ☐ Will the project be able to be completed within 12 months from 1 July 2026?
- ☐ Are the funding amounts recorded correctly and **exclude GST**?
- ☐ If the project will cost more than the grant amount, have you detailed in section 5.2 of the application form how the extra cost will be covered?
- ☐ Are there quotes for all line items included in the project budget?
- ☐ Have both the local government chief executive officer and chief financial officer given their approval?
- ☐ Has the SES local controller signed the form?
- ☐ Are all supporting documents included?

Submit the application on time

Email the application form and supporting documents to grants@ses.qld.gov.au by **27 November 2025**.

Make sure all supporting documents are clearly named and attached to the email.

What happens after that?

Applications go through a formal assessment and approval process, outlined in the next section.

Application assessment and approvals

First review

SES Grants and Subsidies reviews applications to make sure:

- the application form is completed correctly
- all required supporting documents are attached
- the proposed project is eligible for funding.

Applications that are incorrect, missing information or not eligible will be returned to the applicant.

If an application is returned after the preliminary assessment, applicants can resubmit with amendments or additional details and documentation. Changes need to be provided within 10 business days of the initial request, as provided and determined by SES.

Regional director recommendations

The SES regional directors review applications for their region and makes recommendations to the SES Support Grant Assessment Panel (the Panel).

Formal assessment

The Panel reviews all applications and evaluates them against the [criteria](#). Based on SES priorities, the criteria, and available funds, the Panel recommends successful applications to the chief officer.

Panel Members are selected from diverse roles to ensure a breadth of expertise in fields relevant to the SES Support Grant's aims and objectives. Additionally, they demonstrate:

- The ability to evaluate applications objectively and impartially.
- The capability to critically assess applications for authenticity and compliance, including identifying potential fraud.
- Strong business acumen and understanding of the SES structure, operations, and framework to support effective decision making.
- A commitment to transparency and accountability, ensuring decisions align with the Program's objectives and principles of fair governance.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills to engage effectively with other panel members and stakeholders.

Chief Officer endorsement

The Chief Officer considers the recommendations and, if satisfied, endorses them. When making a funding decision, the Chief Officer considers:

- the disaster and emergency profile of the area
- what the funds will be used for
- how the project meets the community's needs
- whether the project is financially viable
- the financial position of the local government.

The Deputy Commissioner, Disaster and Emergency Management (DC DEM) approves the awarding of the funding round.

Outcomes formally announced

All local government applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing. Check the [timeline](#) to see when this happens.

Funding agreement signed

Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement that must be signed and returned by the due date given in the announcement letter.

What if the application is unsuccessful?

If the application was unsuccessful, applicants will be notified and can put in an appeal and request feedback from the Chief Officer. This must be done within 28 days of receiving the notification letter.

If applicants are not satisfied with the feedback from the Chief Officer, they can submit a letter to the DC DEM.

The letter to the DC DEM must:

- be on local government letterhead
- be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent
- explain why you're seeking a review of the decisions.

The DC DEM or delegate will review and respond to the applicant within 28 days.

Payment of grant funds

Successful applicants will receive the grant funds after the project is complete. Funds will be released after SES receives and approves:

- the acquittal form
- all required supporting documents, including photos of facility works or vehicles.

SES must have received the acquittal documents by the due date to prevent grant funding being withdrawn. If it's not possible to complete the acquittal by the due date, local governments can request a variation.

Requests for variation

Any request for changes to the project, including timeframes and scope, must be submitted to SES Grants using the variation request form. The form is available to download from www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant. Variation requests must be submitted by 30 April 2027.

Invoices

All invoices associated with the project must be addressed to the local government. It's the local government's responsibility to manage and pay for all invoices.

Project acquittal

Local government grant recipients must provide the following acquittal documents to SES. SES can't accept unpaid invoices from local governments for the funding amount.

All acquittal forms are available on www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant.

Facilities

Provide the following acquittal documents for facilities projects:

- Completed Facility Acquittal Form. Make sure the form has been signed by the appropriate officers.
- Copies of tax invoices and/or transaction reports for all expenditure of the project.
- Photos of the completed project that clearly show all items and services purchased under the grant.
- Nominated bank account details for the payment of awarded funds.

Vehicles

Provide the following acquittal documents for vehicles projects:

- Completed Vehicle Acquittal Form. Make sure the form has been signed by the appropriate officer.
- A valid tax invoice.
- Photos of the received vehicle that include badging, Queensland Government plates (if applicable), red and blue lights (if appropriate) and any additional items purchased under the grant.
- Nominated bank account details for the payment of awarded funds.

Payment of funds

The payment of grants funds is made retrospectively once all acquittal documents have been completed and approved by the relevant delegate. SES process the payment and generate a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.

Finalising the agreement

Once payment has been processed, SES will advise the relevant local government via email that the payment process for the project is finalised. The Recipient Created Tax Invoice will be included in this email for local government records.

Media announcements

Local governments who plan to announce or advertise a successful grant application through council or local media outlets should include acknowledgement of:

- the key points in the Queensland Government announcement.
- funding support from the Queensland Government through the SES Support Grant program.

Near final drafts of media releases and similar communication material may be sent to grants@ses.qld.gov.au before publication, so we know about it. Approval is not required, but SES can review on request.

Policies and provisions

Administration

The Chief Officer may make all such decisions and take all such actions that the Chief Officer sees fit for:

- the furtherance or more effective achievement of the objectives and purposes of the SES Support Grant
- obtaining documents in respect of an approved project
- extending periods of time
- remedying irregularities
- determining grant entitlements.

Delegation

The Chief Officer may delegate the powers and duties of the Chief Officer under the SES Support Grant, either generally or in specific cases in such terms as the Chief Officer may decide.

Accountability

SES is legally responsible to fully account for public money. This responsibility includes accounting for any funds provided in the form of a grant. By accepting grant funds from SES, local governments also become legally accountable to ensure that the public money is properly spent and recorded.

Funding acknowledgement

Applicants must do their best to acknowledge the funding received from the Queensland Government through the SES Support Grant.

This applies to all publications, articles, signs, posters and promotional materials prepared in relation to projects funded under the program. It also applies to relevant forums, conferences and project opening events.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The grant payment **excludes GST**. Under the *Goods and Services Tax Act 1999 (Cth)* and associated tax rulings, the grant paid to the local government is deemed **not subject to GST**.

The local government must advise SES of the:

- total project cost **excluding** GST
- total amount requested **excluding** GST.

SES will generate a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) on behalf of the local government. The RCTI shows the GST exclusive amount deposited into your nominated bank account on completion and acquittal of the approved grant project.

Where to go for more information

For more information about the SES Support Grant, including frequently asked questions and forms, visit www.ses.qld.gov.au/support-grant or email grants@ses.qld.gov.au.

Appendix I: How projects are assessed

When reviewing applications, the SES Support Grant Assessment Panel (the panel) considers the following factors:

- whether the project is eligible for funding
- whether the project meets the criteria laid out in this document
- SES regional director comments and ranking of projects in their area
- emergent SES priorities
- the quality of the information provided
- total funds available within the program.

The panel then uses the Assessment Criteria to score each application – see Appendix II: Assessment Criteria. They give a score of between 1-3 using this scoring scale:

1	2	3
Barely complies with the funding requirements and assessment criteria	Mostly complies with the funding requirements and assessment criteria	Fully complies with the funding requirements and assessment criteria

Scores are weighted against the percentage allocated for each criterion, shown here:

Criteria	Explanatory Remarks	Weighting
Rationale and activity	Does the project contribute to the delivery of the SES operations in terms of effective and efficient response to disasters and emergencies?	30%
Return on investment	Does the potential benefit to the community warrant the cost of the project?	30%
Project outcomes	Will the project ultimately help the community prepare for and respond to severe weather and emergencies?	40%

Appendix II: Assessment Criteria

Rationale and activity

Measure	Considerations
Guiding principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project align with the principles and objectives of the SES and the SES Support Grant? Does the project support local government in delivering high-quality emergency and disaster services while contributing to effective and efficient SES operations in response to disasters and emergencies? Does the project identify and address specific capability needs while reducing risks to communities through risk assessment and management principles?
Function of the unit or group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What capability functions does the unit or group hold and do they align with the project? Does the unit or group provide primary or secondary support response? How far away is the support from other agencies?
Disaster and emergency events risk profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the geographic location particularly prone to specific hazards such as cyclones, storm surges, flooding, or earthquakes? Do the climatic conditions in the area, such as monsoonal activity, suggest increased exposure to hazards? How frequently do disasters and emergency events occur in the area, and does this suggest that the community is particularly prone to such occurrences? What is the nature of the disaster and emergency hazards, and what is the associated risk level? What have been the impacts of past disaster and emergency events on the community? Have applications been previously submitted and awarded for this natural disaster and/or emergency hazard or risk?
Existing measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any existing works, measures, or related activities in place that support the delivery of high-quality emergency and disaster management? How effective are these measures in achieving their intended objectives?
Community considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the population size low, medium, or high? Is the population growing, decreasing, or stable? What is the geographic distribution of the population? Is the local economy particularly sensitive to disaster or emergency impacts due to the dominance of a single industry or a marginal economic situation? Does the community face any unique risks or challenges related to disasters or emergencies?



Return on investment

Measure	Considerations
Guiding principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the community benefit justify the project cost? Is the project ready to proceed within the proposed timeframe? Will effective project management be in place (if applicable)? Is the project adequately scoped, or are there potential risks and additional costs? What is the intended use of the facility or resource? Does the project demonstrate merit from a cost-benefit analysis perspective?
Project feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project technically sound? Is the project well supported by the applicant local government? Is the project ready to commence once funding is approved? Does the project comply with relevant technical, environmental, planning, and legislative requirements?
Project costs and funding options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project represent value for money? Are the costs reasonable and appropriate for the project? Does the potential benefit to the community justify the cost? Have all funding sources been clearly identified? What is the level of community support for the project? Is the unit or group supported by a well-funded local government? Can alternative funding sources be considered for this project?
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the timeframe for the completion of the project achievable and realistic?
Nature of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the facility for exclusive use of the SES? If shared, is there any cost/benefit for doing so? For shared premises, has the percentage of SES use been identified? Could the group or unit access other facilities outside of this project, potentially reducing the priority of this project?

Project outcomes

Measure	Considerations
Guiding principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project fundamentally address the aims and objectives of the SES Support Grant? Will the project ultimately help the community prepare for and respond to severe weather and emergencies? Does the project demonstrate the need for the funding being sought?
Local government commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a commitment and capacity for the local government to fund ongoing maintenance and support for the project? Will the local government fully support the project?

