



CASE STUDY

Seeding New Investment Fund

Regional Development Australia NT (RDA NT) plays a key role in helping NT organisations identify and secure funding for regional development projects.

We have partnered with the NT Department of the Chief Minister to offer the Seeding New Investment Fund. The aim of the Fund is to kick start new investment by supporting project proponents to develop 'shovel ready' projects.

Organisations across the Territory are invited to apply for funding of up to \$50,000 to assist with the costs of developing a business case and/or supporting professional documents. These documents will then be used to fulfill the requirements of public or private funding applications. The ultimate objective is to see more investment in regional community infrastructure and projects.

Following are three projects previously awarded funding through the Seeding New Investment Fund. These case studies are provided to assist you in understanding the purpose of this funding program, along with some additional information regarding the associated obligations if your organisation is offered funding.

Case Studies



Image courtesy of Victoria Daly Regional Council website

BIRD WATCHING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Big Rivers Region

Funding provided: \$45,000

The Victoria Daly Regional Council submitted a strong application to Round 1 for funding to progress investment in bird watching infrastructure and visitor amenities that will support the growth of tourism in the region. Assistance was sought for the development of a business case and design work, including facilitated engagement with stakeholders and experts in the field. This work would make the project “shovel ready”.

The Vic Daly Regional Council continue to work hard to secure full funding for this project. Although a Building Better Regions Fund application was unsuccessful, the project lends itself to staged investment. Council have secured partial funding, to construct and install interpretive bird signage at Pine Creek, through an NT Government Tourism Asset Grant. The partnership between Vic Daly Regional Council and RDA NT is ongoing and funding opportunities continue to be explored.



Image courtesy of Hermansburg Potters

HERMANSBURG POTTERS INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Central Australia Region
Funding provided: \$49,980

The Hermansburg Potters Aboriginal Corporation submitted a very strong application to Round 2 for funding to address pressing infrastructure needs to underpin the growth of the business, support new artists, and expand tourism offerings. Assistance was sought for the development of a business case, design work and a cost estimate. This work would make the project “shovel ready”.

Contract negotiations were brief as the application addressed the guidelines with good supporting evidence and outlined a clear path to full funding of the project. The Hermansburg Potters continue to work hard to secure full funding for this project, their partnership with RDA NT is consequently ongoing.



Image courtesy of Baniyala Garrangali
Aboriginal Corporation

OUR ART. OUR FUTURE.

East Arnhem Region
Funding provided: \$47,000

The Baniyala Garrangali Aboriginal Corporation submitted a strong application to Round 1 for funding to progress the replacement of existing Baniyala Art Centre facilities, generating economic outcomes including increased production and tourism. Assistance was sought for architectural and engineering designs and a cost estimate. Although there was still a need for a business case, this progressed the project one step closer to ‘shovel ready’. Baniyala Garrangali Aboriginal Corporation worked hard to secure full funding for this project. Although a Building Better Regions Fund application was unsuccessful, they were later awarded Aboriginal Benefits Account funding to progress the project.

Two of the three case studies provided are projects led by Aboriginal corporations. RDA NT supports many projects with Aboriginal partners and beneficiaries. However, this is certainly not a prerequisite for success with the Seeding New Investment Fund.

Furthermore, many funding opportunities are open only to local government and not-for-profits, businesses are deemed ineligible. RDA NT will accept applications for the Seeding New Investment Fund from businesses. It should be clear, however, that the funding objective is community benefit and not commercial benefit.

Applications will be assessed based on the criteria provided in the funding guidelines. Ultimately the funding program aims to address a need – the applicant must lack the resources to develop a strong, evidence based, funding application – and the aim will be to best utilise limited Seeding New Investment Fund resources to maximise community and/or regional impact.

Applicants are encouraged to think about how they will progress and maintain their project during, and beyond, the initial planning phase. Common issues that are raised with successful applicants during the funding contract negotiation phase include the budget, the support of project partners, and the project proponents capacity to fund ongoing maintenance costs.

RDA NT does not require successful applicants to secure full funding for their projects, as demonstrated by the above case studies it can be very challenging to fund even the most competitive regional development projects. However, RDA NT does require successful applicants to continue working with us to identify and secure full funding.

RDA NT's ability to resource future rounds of the Seeding New Investment Fund depends on you. It is critical that you share your funding challenges with us, that funding recipients maintain an ongoing dialogue with us while seeking full project funding, and that funding recipients share their successes once projects are fully funded. Our knowledge of your projects is the evidence we need to maintain the Seeding New Investment Fund.

Applications for Seeding New Investment Fund - Round 5 open midday 13 May 2024 and close midday 17 June 2024

For more information visit:

<https://www.rdant.com.au/resources-find-grants/grant-assistance/seeding-new-investment-fund/>