

# Caravan Parks Grant Program Information Session Webinar – 7 December 2022

## Common questions from participants

### Q: Is it possible to extend the closing date?

No. All projects need to be completed by 15th May 2024, as such we need to adhere to timelines to allow for grant assessments and project completion as outlined in Section 7.2 of the Guidelines.

Applications will close on **22 December 2022** at 4:00pm (AEDST). Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.

### Q: What should I do if I cannot get quotes for my project?

You need to submit other relevant documents to demonstrate your project will be ready to begin early 2023 and can be completed by 15 May 2024. This evidence can be (but is not limited to):

* statements from suppliers
* detailed project plans.

### Q: What is THRIVE 2030 and where can I find a copy?

THRIVE 2030 is Australia’s national strategy for the long-term sustainable growth of the visitor economy. The strategy can be found online [here](https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/publications/thrive-2030-strategy#:~:text=THRIVE%202030%20targets,to%20%24230%20billion%20by%202030.).

### Q: Can the eligibility criteria to have 40 powered sites be waived? There are smaller caravan parks or parks in regional areas that do not meet this criterion.

No. The guidelines state eligibility criteria will not be waived under any circumstances. This program is a one off $10 million program so managing demand is important. With over 1,400 caravan parks in Australia, we expect high demand on the program. Austrade has restricted eligibility to manage demand on the limited program funding.

### Q: Are caravan parks that plan to have 40 powered sites in the near future (but do not yet have them) eligible to apply?

No. Applicants need to meet all eligibility criteria at the time of applying.

### Q: Will there be other opportunities for smaller caravan parks to apply for project funding?

We encourage you to check for more information about other grants and programs available at both the State and Federal level to suit your business at: [Grants and programs finder | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs?resultsNum=10)/grants-and-programs

### Q: Can you define what "shovel ready" means for this grant?

“Shovel ready” means your project is well planned and will be ready to commence in early February 2023 following the signing of a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. Your project needs to be complete by the grant activity end date of 15 May 2024.

### Q: We just started a major improvement; can we apply for funding?

As indicated in Section 5.2 of the Guidelines, costs incurred prior to a grant agreement being executed are not eligible.

### Q: Could I apply for funding to expand on an existing project, or would this activity be excluded?

Yes, expanding on an existing project would generally be eligible if it is an eligible grant activity as listed in Section 5.1 of the grant guidelines. However, costs incurred prior to a grant agreement being executed are not eligible.

### Q: We are currently going through council for a development approval to add 6 new powered sites. There is a fee of approximately $18,000 per site. Would this be an eligible cost?

Please refer to Section 5.2 of the guidelines for ineligible grant activities. Costs related to development approvals are generally eligible if they are not incurred prior to a grant agreement being executed.

### Q: Will there be future rounds of this program?

A second round of applications may be announced if Program funds are not fully committed after the first round. This is unlikely as we expect a high demand on the Program.

### Q: Will this presentation be made available so we can share with our stakeholders? / Is this webinar available to watch later please?

We indicated during the webinar that the recording of the presentation would be available. Unfortunately, due to a technical issue the recording is not available for viewing. We will be sending a copy of the presentation and notes to those who attended on the day.

### Q: Can you apply for more than one project and if so, would this need to be done in a separate application?

There is a limit of one application per caravan park. The application can include multiple eligible activities, but it will be assessed as one complete project.

### Q: If my project total is $280,000 do I put the total costs in the application form or limit it to $200,000? (e.g. $100,000 grant funding and $100,000 matching cash)

As indicated in Section 3 of the Guidelines, grants are available between $10,000 and $100,000. Grant funding must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar (or more) basis depending on the turnover of the caravan park from the 2021-22 financial year.

When applying you will need to put the total cost of your project and complete the budget information in the application form indicating the grant amount being sought and your matching (dollar-for-dollar or more) amount.

### Q: Is there a definition of 'caravan park' and would campgrounds or showgrounds be included?

The grant guidelines define a caravan park as a business that provides short-term non-residential accommodation to the general public, with powered sites for caravans and toilet, shower and laundry facilities for guests. Applicants need to be operating as a caravan park to be eligible.

### Q: Is this grant suitable for hospitality groups who only have hotels but would like to enter the caravan park market as a new market entrant?

This grant program is only open to caravan parks that are operational at the time of applying.

### Q: What happens if a successful project is delayed and cannot be completed on time (before May 2024) due to unforeseen circumstances?

All projects must be complete by 15 May 2024 to allow us to finalise reports and payments by the end of 30 June 2024.

You must consider impacts of supply chain issues and delays on the timeframe and delivery of proposed projects when preparing your application. Potential for delays and access to suppliers must be factored into project designs and timeframes to enable completion within the program period.

A risk assessment template is available on Austrade’s website to help you identify and mitigate risks.

### Q: Which caravan parks is this grant intended for as there are limitations in the eligibility? (e.g. partnerships, sole traders and local government are not eligible)

The program is for privately-owned caravan parks with plans for infrastructure upgrades that align with the Program objectives and outcomes. This Program aligns with Austrade’s work on improvements in visitor infrastructure through priorities under THRIVE 2030. With over 1,400 caravan parks in Australia, we expect high demand on the program. Austrade has restricted eligibility to manage demand on the limited program funding.