



Regional Airports Development Scheme **2027-29 Grant Guidelines**



Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Western Australia and pays our respects to Elders past and present.

About this guide

These guidelines set out who can apply for funding under the Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS), what projects and costs are eligible, how to apply, how applications are assessed and the obligations of successful grant recipients. While DTMI has prepared this guide in good faith, the State accepts no liability for any loss or damage incurred as a result of reliance on the information contained within it.

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Alternative formats

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Front cover photo: Air connectivity is a critical lifeline for regional and remote communities.

Below: RADS strengthens regional aviation through partnership with airports, local governments and communities.



Introduction

DTMI's Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) ensures regional aviation infrastructure is developed to a standard that facilitates safe, efficient, affordable and fit for purpose aviation services in Western Australia. The 2027-29 RADS funding round is now open, with more than \$3.8 million in grants available.

What RADS funds

- Common-user aviation infrastructure that improves regional air services and/or air safety.
- Projects that maximise the number of regional Western Australians benefiting from the improvements.
- Regional airport planning.

What RADS does not fund

- Maintenance activities covered by the scope of the Department of Housing and Works Remote Essential and Municipal Services (REMS) program. Visit the Department's website for more information.
- Seed funding as part of an investment attraction strategy.
- Privately-owned infrastructure, except where there are clear and substantial community benefits in doing so.
- Other ineligible costs are listed in the cost eligibility section.

Funding and co-contributions

- A matching contribution from the applicant organisation is normally expected.
- RADS grants are generally limited to 50 percent of the estimated total cost. In addition, the Minister for Transport may offer funding for certain elements of a proposed project or a percentage of the funding requested. The final decision to offer a grant remains solely with the Minister for Transport.
- Airport owners with the financial capacity to fully fund their terminal and airstrip upgrade projects are expected to do so.

- Funding is reserved for projects which cannot be fully funded through other means.
- Applicants seeking grant funding greater or equal to \$500,000 should contact the RADS team prior to submitting an application.

Other requirements

- Regular Public Transport (RPT) airports applying for RADS funding require a current Strategic Airport Assets and Financial Management Framework prior to RADS grant payment claim.
- Applicants must demonstrate the procurement policy, or equivalent, that will be followed for the project as part of their application process.
- Where the airport is located on land owned or managed by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA) or Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT), applicants must ensure compliance with ALT land use and development policy. Contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) on 08 6551 8002 or proposals@dplh.wa.gov.au for information.
- Applicants must comply with *the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, *the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 (WA)*, *the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and *the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)*.
- DTMI may share application information with government departments, agencies, statutory bodies and others for assessment and verification purposes.



Applications for the 2027-29 funding round close on Friday 11 September 2026.

Before you start

To be eligible to apply for a RADS grant, applicants must meet all the requirements below and provide supporting evidence in their application:

- the airport is located in regional or remote Western Australia;
- Regular Public Transport (RPT) airport applicants will commit to working with DTMI to complete and maintain a Strategic Airport Assets and Financial Management Framework;
- the applicant is the airport owner or lease holder;
- the applicant can demonstrate the procurement policy, or equivalent, that will be followed for the project;
- the applicant has an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- the airport is open to the public;
- the airport is maintained on an ongoing basis; and
- the project will provide public benefit.



The Royal Flying Doctor Service personnel transferring a patient at Kondinin airstrip, 2025.

Project eligibility

Eligible projects generally fall into one or more of the following categories:

Aircraft movement area development

This may involve construction, extension, sealing or marking of runways, taxiways and aircraft parking areas.

This includes meeting requirements of the:

- Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS); and
- relevant Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) aerodrome regulations.

Airside development

This may include the provision of airport lighting, navigation aids and patient transfer facilities.

Grounds development

This may include animal exclusion fencing, drainage or obstacle limitation areas.

Terminal development

This may include construction, installation of security equipment, such as bag and passenger screening facilities, or safety enhancements.

Airport strategic planning

A Strategic Airport Asset and Financial Management Plan typically guides future capital works at the airport.

Other aviation infrastructure projects

If the project falls outside the above categories, it is important that the applicant clearly demonstrates how the project will improve regional air services and air safety for the benefit of regional communities.



Completed runway sealing works at Meekatharra Airport, 2024

Preparing an application

The RADS online application is available at transport.wa.gov.au/RADS and must be completed and submitted by close of business (5pm WST) on **Friday 11 September 2026**.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application is completed, with appropriate supporting documents attached in line with the RADS application checklist.

Applicants are required to demonstrate that the organisation's procurement policy, or equivalent, has been followed for the project.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek third party contributions to deliver the greatest project value from the limited funding available. It is the applicant's responsibility to advise DTMI of the outcome of other grant applications.

If third party funding is successfully sourced, the total amount of RADS grant support will generally be reduced.

The grant is usually provided at the completion of the work, though consideration will be given to milestone payments when requested on the application.

Approval of the grant does not guarantee DTMI will approve milestone payments.

DTMI may contact the applicant to clarify some points or obtain additional information during the assessment period.



Cost eligibility

The following items are not eligible for funding and will automatically be deducted from the grant offer if they are included in the application:

- landside infrastructure such as car parks, access roads, landscaping or power/ water connection, dams and commercial developments;
- the purchase of motor vehicles, heavy plant and equipment;
- ongoing airport operating or running costs;
- aerodrome training;
- depreciation costs;
- general organisational administration costs;
- maintenance costs covered under the Department of Housing and Works Remote Essential and Municipal Services (REMS) program;
- audit costs;
- contingency costs;
- project management costs unless satisfactory proof is provided that a professional consultant was engaged directly on the project;
- overheads such as costs of rent, insurance, and taxes;
- price mark-ups on goods, where the works are undertaken by the grant recipient;
- costs associated with the removal of vandalism activities;
- retrospective costs. Grantees must not commence work or order goods or services associated with the project prior to the funding deed being executed; and
- costs not directly related to the project as defined in the funding deed.

Assessment of applications

DTMI, in consultation with the RADS consultative committee, will evaluate applications and make recommendations for approval to the Minister for Transport.

The RADS consultative committee consists of representatives from:

- Main Roads WA;
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development;
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage;
- Department of Housing and Works;
- Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport;
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services;
- WA Country Health Service; and
- Royal Flying Doctor Service

Projects are assessed on the following criteria:

- the safety benefits;
- the benefit to community and region;
- the population benefiting from the improvements;
- demonstration that the applicant cannot source funding to undertake the project without assistance from RADS;
- integration with the airport's master plan, wider community plan, and/or Strategic Airport Assets and Financial Management Framework, applicable to RPT airports only.
- project deliverability; and
- the existence of an ongoing management and maintenance plan, and associated funding.

RADS grants are usually limited to 50 per cent of the estimated total cost. The Minister for Transport may approve a different funding amount or specific project components at their discretion.

Administrative process

Successful grant applicants are required to complete a number of administrative tasks before, during and after funding is provided. A 'Guide to Managing your Grant' brochure is sent to successful grant recipients containing templates to help with grant administration requirements.

Process	Timeline
 1. Acceptance of grant offer Successful applicants are required to formally accept or reject the grant offer in writing.	Two weeks after being advised of grant offer
 2. Signing of funding deed A formal deed is drawn up and signed by the grant recipient and the Minister for Transport to allow commencement of the project.	Before work commences
 3. RADS signage DTMI will forward a RADS sign for display at the airport to acknowledge the State Government's contribution to the project. The installation of signage is at the cost and responsibility of the grant recipient.	During the project
 4. Monitoring of work Grant recipients are required to complete regular project reports sent by DTMI to monitor the progress of the work.	Work to be completed within the financial year stated in the funding deed
 5. Grant payment Following completion of the project, grant recipients must provide DTMI with a concise summary of what the project has achieved, the actual total eligible cost of the project (ex GST), the source of funding contributions and forward copies of invoices and/or other relevant financial documentation as well as date stamped photographic evidence, such as before/after pictures. The grant payment will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding deed.	Evidence to be provided by the date stated in the funding deed
 6. Project acquittal Grant recipients must provide employment, training and work contracts data for the project, including where applicable, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, along with an audited financial statement confirming the actual total eligible project cost (ex GST) and funding sources.	60 days after grant payment
 7. Evaluation Following the completion of the funding round, the aviation team will survey key airport stakeholders from a sample of acquitted RADS projects to assess the performance of RADS against outcome measures.	Within three months of completion of RADS funding round

Notes and obligations of grant participants

Project delays

You must inform DTMI as soon as possible if you encounter delays which will impact your project schedule. Extensions may be granted at the Minister for Transport's discretion.

Requests for an extension must be submitted in writing, outlining the reasons for the delay and a revised project completion date. If an extension is not approved prior to the original project completion date, the funding deed may be terminated, and the Minister for Transport will have no obligation to make payment.

Public acknowledgement

Details of grant amounts, project works and recipients are published on the DTMI website. Applicants are required to seek DTMI's permission prior to making any media announcement regarding their grant. Media statements regarding the grant must mention the RADS contribution to the project.

GST

All prices/costs presented in the application form and funding submission must be exclusive of GST.

Maintenance

Airport owners and operators are expected to make budget provisions for ongoing maintenance of all airport infrastructure including RADS funded projects. DTMI has no obligation to provide further funding to maintain any infrastructure previously developed through this scheme.



Upgraded runway and taxiway lights at Warburton Airport, 2025

Contact

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