**QIPPS Strategic Initiatives Program QA webinar-20230908\_000429-Meeting Recording**

September 8, 2023, 11:22PM

41m 37s

 **Anita Anderson** 9:21
Alright, we might get started.
Thank you everyone for joining us.
This is the QLD innovation precincts in places strategy strategic initiatives fund webinar.
It's intended as a question and answer webinar.
That is, will complement the webinar we did on the 10th of August and the recording to that session is in our chat line.

 **Anita Anderson** 9:46
my name is Anita Anderson.
I'm a manager of strategic projects and governance within the Innovation Division

 **Anita Anderson** 9:54
 I just need to remind you that this webinar is being recorded.

 **Anita Anderson** 9:59
It may be uploaded to our website or disclosed to other government departments or contractors for the purposes of helping to inform and support Queensland Government grant initiatives and advance QLD initiatives.
Your personal information will be handled in accordance with the Information Privacy Act.
Before we begin, I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners and the land on which we all meet today. For our office, it's the Jagera people and the Turrbal people. We recognize their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.
We'd also like to pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.
So this is a reminder that the program is part of three year $15 million QLD innovation precincts and places fund that was set up to support innovation precincts to drive ideas through the commercialisation, adoption and diffusion.
And it's a key initiative of the 10 year QLD innovation precincts and places strategy that's aimed at accelerating QLD's innovations on me just quickly.
The objectives of the strategic initiatives program are to position QLD innovation places to reach their full potential, to attract investment and create high value jobs.
It's two position QLD innovation places and partner organisations to collaborate in the development and growth of innovation places and it's to strengthen and the development effectiveness and sustainability of Queensland's innovation places.

 **Anita Anderson** 11:37
Our grants of up to 300,000 are available for existing Queensland based innovation precincts or places the grants are available to be to be used for strategic advice, including an action plan for either a governance framework and investment attraction strategy or an operational land and or building asset assessment strategy and applications will close at 1:00 o'clock on the 28th of September.
So for today's session, we'd like you to use either the Q&A or the chat feature to ask your questions.

 **Anita Anderson** 12:09
If anyone has asked a question that you're also interested in, could you please like or indicate through one of the emoticons and FAQ that we have online will be updated after this session.
And of course it recording of this webinar will be available for anyone who was unable to attend and I just need to remind you that for today I won't be discussing any advice on individual applications.

 **Anita Anderson** 12:33
So we've had a number of questions provided to us since our last session, so I'll start today's session going through those and then at the end there will be an opportunity for any other questions that you'd like to have answered in the course of this session.

 **Anita Anderson** 12:48
So the first question was around what the project commencement date was because in our guidelines and our FAQ's, we often refer to that to termine.
Termine when you can have your eligible expenditure and when you can expect it to be reimbursed.

 **Anita Anderson** 13:03
So for the definition of this date, the project commencement date is confirmed in the document that you'll sign with the department, but effectively it will be no earlier than the date of funding approval.
So what that means in practice is if you've got a proposal and you've already decided to engage, that our third party consultant, because you've time is of the essence, you're not gonna be able to put forward any funding that's been incurred prior to getting notified by the department that you're funding has been approved.

 **Anita Anderson** 13:35
So in some cases, people will determine that and in when when they're putting their funding instrument together, that our project isn't going to start until a future date.
So that would be your project commencement date.
So there is a little bit of flexibility in.
It may be after the date of your funding being approved, but it under no circumstances will funding that's been incurred prior to being notified by the department.
Will that be considered eligible for being reimbursed?
Next question we had was acquitted.

 **Anita Anderson** 14:06
Salaries associated with submitting the grant application be captured in the cash contribution calculation for the intention of the assessors looking at what was your own consideration that you were bringing to the party.
No, very clearly in our FAQ on page 10, if you're interested.
Only salaries for employees that are directly involved in developing this the advice, including the action plan with the third party expert, can be considered through this fund.

 **Anita Anderson** 14:36
Next question was funding be used to obtain the strategic advice and deliver or implement part of or all of the nominated action plan.
Now this question, Umm, is intended.
We clarified that and with the person who who asked for this question to be answered and what they were thinking about was if there was an action plan, for example, for an investment strategy.
Sorry the the strategic advice was for the investment strategy and part of that advice once it was provided was that a prospectus may need to be developed and they asked if that prospectus was developed, would the funds that were required to activate that action plan be considered eligible and the advice that we have is that it is not the funding can only be used to support strategic advice and cannot be applied to the delivery or the implementation of any particulars in the action plan.

 **Anita Anderson** 15:32
The applicant will be required to demonstrate how the action plan will be delivered as part of the assessment criteria for that relates to sustainability and resilience and the Russian all behind.
That is, we're looking to see that the action plan is, is, is going to be and reasonably delivered by the precinct and hence if the funding is required from the department to put that in place, then that isn't really satisfying.
What that criteria is the assessment criteria is, is is looking at and so I'm happy to clarify that if anyone has further questions in the chat.
The next question is can we explain the link between an applicant and a precinct partner?
So an applicant needs to be a precinct partner of the innovation precinct or place.
So I understand that there there can be some clarifications regarding those terms for the purposes of the program and Innovation Precinct or place partner is an entity that is Co located at the address that is subject of the application for that precinct precinct or place they need to be aligned with the brand and the identity of the innovation precinct or place have a shared purpose and vision agreement or common interest with the future development and growth of that place.
And they need to have a commitment to the future strategies and action plan of the innovation precinct or place.
They also importantly need to be accepted by other precinct or place partners as belonging to that that same entity.
And so you may recall the definition of the precinct or place is that you need to have at least two entities or partners that have a shared vision and agreement, one of which is at least one of which is either a commercial and or a research entity. So.
The applicant must be someone who is in that precinct or place, so I hope that's clarified that answer for you.
If you'd like me to go into that and any further detail, please just pop it in there in the chat.
The next question was how can an applicant satisfy eligibility criteria 3 and So what I've I've just put that here for anyone that's interested, which is around the site Co locating 2 or more entities who have a shared vision agreement and or common interest which I just mentioned before, at least one of which is a commercial and and or research entity.
So the way that we would be looking to see that, that that criteria has been met is that all partners need to be physically located at the same address, the of the precinct or place and they they're going to need to provide a letter of support stating they have that common vision or agreement as part of the application and they would also be needing to demonstrate that they're either a for profit or a research primary focus within those businesses.
Now the question that we had come through was, are we eligible if we only have 1 operational entity on the precinct at the time of the application and the criteria is quite clear in this that now a minimum of two entities or partners as defined in the FAQ S and the guidelines need to be operational at the time of the application.
The question was do all funds have to be paid to third party experts?
Yes, all funds need to be paid to someone other than the applicant and it needs to be that the the proposal that's put forward as part of your application is the entity that we're expecting those funds to go to and as part of your contractual agreement with the department, you will be required to evidence that you have appropriately paid those funds to the parties that were expected.
And and this is an associated question, which is can my company have an interest in the third party expert?
For example, if one of our directors has a shareholding in the company that's providing the strategic advice, no, this is a a very clear requirement.
The applicant and the precinct, all the precinct or place partner and if there is a collaborative partner who is helping to support the primary applicant in in a funding capacity or in supporting them to forge ahead with their action plan, none of those entities can have a commercial or personal connection with the proposed third party expert applicants will be required to declare any interest in the entity that's providing a proposal for tgic advice.
So that's a really important one and because we're looking to ensure that there aren't any conflicts of interest with the parties that will be engaged.
Now the question is, how will you treat multiple applications received from the First precinct?
So I need to highlight that this in the course of answering this question, we've identified a clarification that needs to be made to the guidelines that will be published on our page and a copy will be a link to that will be also sent to everyone who has expressed an interest in this and it will also be uploaded on our web page within the next few days.
All eligible applications for an innovation precinct will place will be assessed.
However, only one funding application will be approved per innovation precinct or place.
We also need to highlight that applications supported by all precinct and place partners of an innovation precinct or place will be highly regarded.
So I understand this question has come to pass where there may be in some cases a competing application that's put through by a precinct partner.
And obviously that's not the intention of this project.
Is is to get the intention of of.
This fund is to get consensus with the precinct partners and everyone on board to forge ahead with.
With what?
The strategic advice is so if the case is that we receive more than one application for a precinct or place and they are both eligible, they will be assessed.
However, what we'll be looking to to review in the assessment is where the letters of support have been provided for each of those applications, and so I hope that clarifies that for you, we will be putting it clarification to that in our guidelines, as I mentioned, and providing that communication formally to everyone who's here today.
Another question was, is this a sequential grant offering?
Do you have to apply it stream one to be considered for stream two or three?

 **Anita Anderson** 22:20
We have had this question earlier in other in our other webinar and the answer remains the same.
No.
Each each funding stream will be considered independently.
This grant program is independent to all other AQ programs and any applications will not form consideration for other programs.
I also need to remind people that stream 2, which is the development of the place leaders network, is not a contestable grant program.
That's a funding allocation that's been provided to the department to bring forward a range of activities and initiatives that will bring help the leaders in the precincts and places to to connect, to collaborate, to get more value out of that.
It will be a Co designed range of initiatives and more information will be provided in the in the coming month around that.
So that concludes all of the questions that we have received since our last webinar, so I'll just ask my colleague if we've had any more questions come up in our chats.
And so far it doesn't appear that we have.
They're quiet today, but sounds like a lot of listenings going on, so I'll stay online for a little while longer and and while you're thinking about any questions you have or any areas of concern or clarifications you'd like discussed, I'll also like to remind you that there are a number of webinars that will be happening in the next week for two programs that have been announced.
So one of those is for the Ignite ideas and the Ignite Spark funding programs.
So A webinar is planned for Wednesday the 13th of September or at 10:00 AM, and we'll be putting a link to that registration in the chat or function of this, and I can also provide details to anyone who is interested in getting more information about that.
It's not a program I can provide you with detail on because it's administered by a different part of our division.
The other webinar that's happening next week is for the Regional Futures Collaborative projects.
We're gram and that's planned for Friday the 15th of September at 10:00 AM and we'll also be putting a link to the registration for that webinar into the chat for this session as well.
So OK, so just had a couple of questions pop in.
While you've been talking through that great.
Let me just have a look at it.
So the first question is, do we have an estimated date for the release of string three as yet yes, we do.
An estimated date is.
I believe it is the yeah, late September the 28th or the 29th.
I think it's the 28th of September.
We're just confirming that with our internal communications and we will be providing more detail around that.
There will also be a webinar that will go through the detail of those guidelines.
All of that information will be released no earlier than that.
So you you will be receiving as much information as we possibly can on or around the 28th of September and that'll be good lead times in that to be able to respond.
Yeah, absolutely.
We're very mindful.
It's a big program and it's a $10 million fund and we want to make sure that people have enough time to ask as many questions as they would like to on that.
So there will be sufficient time for people to get get across all the some details of what that program involves.
OK, so the next comment is mine.
Thanks so much for that.
In the last webinar you spoke back clarifying about organisations not all being in the one building.
Yeah.
Do you have anything further?
Yes.
Let me just give me one moment on that.
So I think what we have, we did prepare an update to that in the FAQ.
So if you just give me one moment.
Can you have them in multiple buildings?
So precinct partners need to share the same established, clearly defined physical site as what whoever their innovation precinct took place is.
So if you're precinct in place, covers multiple addresses and we know that some of our larger precincts and places like the Gold Coast, they certainly are not limited to one physical location, then that would you would be able to demonstrate that this is the footprint of that precinct or place.
Hence my and my business is within that same area.
So providing your business is sharing the same geographical footprint that the precinct or place has, then that would be fine.
Does that answer that question?
There's no response to the moment, but OK, feel free.
Feel free to let me know if that doesn't clarify that, but if you wanna get more information, we did release an updated FAQ after the last session and that was that answer is on page 8 of that updated FAQ.
So just following on and I think you answered about was posed this question that this is sitting there next.
Yep as well, which was around the release of stream three and just how long stream three will be open for.
So I think that's where we're still like trying to, yeah, dates, but it'll be a good, good length of time.
Yes, it will be a good length of time and I can't tell you exactly because we're still confirming that because as you can imagine, that's going to about up to the Christmas period and we wanna make sure that that doesn't disadvantage anyone who's got our planned leave or needs to be away with their loved ones.
So we wanna make sure that that we have enough time for everyone to get their applications in, but I will be able to give you more information on that in the coming weeks.
OK.
Thank you.
So the next one is Ken, the third party expert engaged a precinct partner, was part of the consultation service, for example, in conducting research or providing a venue.
Can they engage?
So I would expect the third party expert will need to be working with precinct partners, is I'm not sure if the question is do they mean there'll be a payment to a A?
Yeah, if you can provide a little more clarity on that, I would expect the third party expert will be consulting with widely within the precinct.
If your question is around could funding then be provided to a precinct partner for?
Consideration of supporting that I I would have to.
I couldn't respond to that because it's really it would need to be assessed in the application if it's considered reasonable, but the intention is that the funding needs to wholly be paid to the third party expert.
So it would be unlikely in my opinion, but without again I can't comment on an individual application at this point because I'm not going to be on the assessment panel and I and I guess just and again we'll confirm.
I would suspect that we just need to put that lens of conflict of interest, financial benefit, which is sort of referred to it that earlier point in your conversation.
Yeah.
Can there be a direct interest or shareholder in that company?
So I think we've just gotta balance, you know, well, we can reflect if you want to clarify more than welcome to have that, but we just need to be mindful of the principle of that question as well.
Yes, I agree.
OK. So thanks for today.
Question.
What activities?
Workshops, for example, inform the action plan be considered eligible expenditure.
Yes, because that is informing how it's being developed.
It's not the action plan itself, the action items that are in the action plan are not eligible because it would be, you would almost be putting in a proposal that let me, let me explain this.
If you were to have a proposal that was for strategic advice and in that proposal, it said we want 200,000 for the strategic advice and 100,000 for the prospectus, that will be a result of the strategic advice that's indicating that it's needs of failure comply.
You would expect an action plan to be developed as a result of the strategic advice that you wouldn't know at the time of your application.
So that's another reason why the action plan items themselves are not eligible for for reimbursement because you can't umm you, you don't have a, a, A proposal or a quote for that because it can only be developed as a result of the action plan of of the advice that you're getting.
That's about the sequencing of.
Yeah, the sequencing of what you're getting at the quote and the posting correct.
But if you were to need our workshop workshops as part of developing your strategic advice, you're absolutely that would be in scope.
But if you're strategic advice, then said and part of our action plan is we're going to be running a series of workshops and we're going to be doing marketing and and doing comms, those elements are deliverables of the action plan and they wouldn't be in scope for for funding consideration.
OK.
And then as from there, I think you might address this one of the last ones.
So but as a result is oh sorry.
And is there a link to the already existing listed precincts and places recognized in Queensland?
Yeah.
So we had this question at our last session and the answer is is the same.
So whilst you may have seen in the strategy document that was released in 20 last year mid 20 last year, so excuse me that that referred to over 320 innovation precincts or places have been identified in Queensland that was at a point in time and it was not, it's not a list that's maintained by the department because as you'd expect, innovation precincts and places continue to evolve.
Markets and industries continue to emerge.
Players enter and exit the market and there's arena all the time, so we don't have a list of what those precincts and places are.
Of course we're aware of them and we have different parts of our business that are working closely on the ground with those different precincts and places, but we don't maintain a list of that for the department.
Yeah.
OK.
So can you clarify the process for action two?
Who contacts whom?
Or do you have a list of approved contractors?
And I think we've had this question before.
Is this around?
Do we have a list of people who are able to provide the strategic advice is that I'm going to suggest possibly yes.
OK.
So we we had this question the last session and it's it's I understand that there are people wanting to know.
So who do I go to as part of Queensland Government?
We can't make recommendations on who you need to be engaging for that strategic advice.
One of the things you'll be asked for is is an explanation of why you've elected to go with that person.
So we would be encouraging you to do your normal due diligence around how you would normally choose to engage in a commercial relationship with anyone and it might be using your networks or discussing with with other people in the precinct who they've had experience with.
And I would be encouraging you to ask the person that you're considering going with what their previous experience is, and whilst it's not mandatory that they have experience in providing similar advice to an innovation in an innovation arena, it is favourably regarded because we recognise it is quite a specialist area, so it might not be possible that you can find someone who has that experience, but we we are understand that there are numerous people in this space that can and are able to do that.
However, as as a Queensland Government Department, we can't make recommendations as to who you need to engage.
Thank you.
Is there an issue with the third party expert?
Is part of multiple submissions.
Will an application be disadvantaged if a third party is also on other nonrelated submission?
No, that doesn't form part of the assessment at all.
I understand if if the concern is around the capacity of that party to satisfy their contractual obligations, that's not something that is part of the assessment criteria we would be expecting that any proposal that's put forward is done so in good faith with an AM, with a business that has the the confidence that they're able to deliver on those commitments that they have engaged with.

 **Anita Anderson** 34:47
So just jumping back to that previous question where we asked about that, can you clarify the process for action too?
Mm-hmm.
The question is that mean clarified since the question relates to strange too.
Now I'm just wondering if that should be stream two, so stream two is the place leaders network.
So what I did talk about early in the presentation was that this fund is a $15 million fund that has three streams.

 **Anita Anderson** 35:14
This fund is the first stream that has our $4 million allocated to it for grants of up to 300,000 for a strategic advice stream.
Two is $1,000,000 that has been allocated to the department to activate the place leaders network.
Those funds are not contestable.
They won't form the part of an open funding program.
Stream three is a $10 million regional infrastructure and smart infrastructure funding program that is contestable.
So stream two is going to be used to activate a range of initiatives that will be discussed and Co designed with probably many of the people that are in this webinar because we recognize that the experts in this space are not necessarily within our department, they're on the ground and the people there working in this space.
So we want your input and your advice on how those funds can be best utilised to support the activation of the network and give you the outcomes that you're looking for.
It's a two to three year span of when those funds will be spent and I can provide you with more information.
We're expecting around the next month in how that's going to be initiated.
Thank you. OK.
So I think this might have just been previously clarified, touched on, but I'll read this saying cases just adding new ones differences in your response sure Audi able to be an applicant for one type of advice.

 **Anita Anderson** 36:31
So I'm making assumptions baby a potential supply or a supplier, but also you can be able to be a supplier to another precinct or place to give strategic advice in our area of expertise, absolutely.
So if the question is aligned with the previous one that was raised around, can we have the same?
Yeah, third party expert supporting multiple applications then yes they can and it's up to the applicant as to which kind of advice they think is going to have the biggest impact and value for their particular precinct.
So it may be that a third party expert is a confident and and in supporting advice on either governance or investment attraction or a land or building asset operational utilization assessment. Yeah.
So and then actually this day digested this one a little bit myself.
Now so it's yeah.
So this one is I think similar in response, but it's like I can be an applicant for one type of advice because I'm possibly in a different precinct.
Yes.
And I may be the supplier for another precinct that I'm ohh.
I see what you're saying.
So you may be OK.
So OK, so that's to clarify, that's if you have a business that's located.
Sorry.
You, you are all yourself, a precinct partner in an innovation place or precinct.
And you, you're applying for a particular kind of advice, but the the nature of your business means that you're able to support strategic advice for another precinct.

 **Anita Anderson** 38:00
That would be fine, providing there is no.
Relationship between as in a commercial relationship between your business and the business that you're providing advice for.

 **Anita Anderson** 38:12
As we discussed earlier, umm, we have to ensure that there is no conflict of interest or any commercial benefit that would arise from someone using the funding to go to, to, to go to somebody else.

 **Anita Anderson** 38:26
Yeah.
So I think that's it cause, yeah, yeah.
Comment came in display are precinct place applying to yes.
OK. Yeah.
Help e.g.
Traction.
Yep, we can provide us strategic advice to others.
So yeah, I think we just providing there's no commercial relationship between the party you and the precincts that you're applying for.
I'm just checking to see if no, there's no other questions in the new ones coming through the chat and there's no other sitting in the queue and a either at the moment.
OK, well it looks like we have actually gone right on time.
So unless you have any other questions, we will this.
This has been a great session for us.
Thank you.
We've had a whole lot more questions come through, which is is great to see how much interest there is in this fund.
Please use the email that's on the screen if you have any any questions that haven't been covered today, or if in the coming weeks you you you think there's something I'd really like to know.

 **Anita Anderson** 39:22
Innovation places at dtis.qld.gov dot UU and we will get you a response as soon as we can on that.
And just a reminder, this webinar recording will be available to everyone who's been here and it will also be published on our website.

 **Anita Anderson** 39:38
We will use the information you've given us today to improve our FAQ's and update those and keep an eye out for those webinars next week on those other two programs.