

# Smart Cities and Suburbs Program

## REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has set aside \$50 million for a new competitive grants program to support projects that apply innovative technology-based solutions to urban challenges - the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program. Smart technology can help local governments to:

- Actively engage the community in planning and policy decisions
- Address economic, social and environmental challenges
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of urban service delivery

### Program Objectives

The program supports the Australian Government's commitment to help local governments and communities use smart technology and increase the accessibility and use of public data so that:

- Cities, suburbs and towns become more liveable, productive and sustainable and
- Urban service delivery becomes more efficient and effective.

### Grants Available

For round one:

- The minimum grant amount is \$100,000
- The maximum grant amount is \$5 million

*The applicant must meet ELIGIBILITY and MERIT criteria.*

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Online Application
- Letter from your Mayor, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer with in-principle commitment to the project and in-principle allocation of the funding your organisation will contribute to the project
- Letter of support from the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer of each project partner, including in-principle allocation of any funding they will contribute to the project
- Project plan (for projects over \$1 million)
- Project budget (for projects over \$1 million)
- Trust deed (where applicable)
- You may attach any other documents that support your application and/or claims made in relation to the merit criteria



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

You must have an **Australian Business Number (ABN)**, be registered for GST, and be one of the following:

- A local government agency or body as defined in Appendix A
- An entity incorporated in Australia
- An incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- A not for profit organisation
- A Publicly Funded Research Organisation (PFRO)

Your project must involve:

- At least one **local government agency** or body, and
- At least one **private sector organisation** during the life of the project

Projects must have **in-principle support from a local government agency** or body at the time of application. You must provide evidence of in-principle support by:

- A letter from the relevant Mayor(s) or Chief Executive Officer(s) stating that the project is endorsed by local government leadership and supported by relevant council divisions, in principle, if grant funding is awarded, or
- An approved Council minute from a formal meeting of Council.

You must provide **evidence of how you will fund your minimum 50 per cent share** of eligible project costs from funding sources other than the Commonwealth.

You must **start your project within two months** of executing a grant agreement.

Project applies **innovative smart technologies** which generate, store, communicate and process data to target urban challenges. Additionally, projects must involve the innovative application of knowledge, hardware or software that:

- Is new to the organisation, the local government area, city, region or country or
- Delivers an outcome which has not previously been realised in your community or
- Extends or deploys an existing smart technology in a novel way.

Activities should **align with one or more of the four program priority areas**:

- **Smart Infrastructure** (aims to improve the efficiency, reliability, delivery and maintenance of infrastructure and essential services)  
Solutions that improve:
  - o Infrastructure-related services such as traffic management, emergency response, waste management, communications and water supply
  - o Landscape and green infrastructure assets
  - o Infrastructure management and maintenance and transportation infrastructure issues including accessibility and mobility.
- **Smart Precincts** (aims at making community precincts more liveable, productive, sustainable and safe)  
Solutions that improve the comfort, amenity, security and management of public facilities, assets and spaces. Solutions may include integrated and intelligent systems which provide automated responses to real-time environmental and usage data.
- **Smart Services and Communities** (aims at delivering community focussed local government services)  
Solutions that:
  - o Increase community engagement
  - o Involve the community in service design and delivery
  - o Empower customers to make decisions through greater access to information
  - o Improve access to council services
  - o Support real-time availability of council information and data.
- **Smart Planning and Design** (aims at building adaptable and resilient cities through improved land use, strategic planning and governance).  
Solutions that provide more sophisticated information to support decision making and improve governance at local, state and national level, including through:
  - o Automatic integration of data from sensor networks
  - o Planning systems that predict development impacts

- o Smart planning tools that analyse data from myriad sources to improve land use and planning.

## MERIT CRITERIA

Funding will only be awarded to applications that score highly against all merit criteria, as these represent best **value for money**.

The extent to which your **project is innovative** and uses smart technology and open data (30 points)

- The extent to which your project is innovative
- The extent that your project will promote open and accessible data
- The extent to which your project uses smart technology
- The degree that your project supports interoperability of systems and uses available standards, particularly open standards. Examples of existing open standards include data models based on CitySDK, data platforms based on CKAN, APIs based on the FIWARE NGS API framework, and information discovery standards like Hypercat.

The scope of **social, environmental and economic benefits** your project will deliver (30 points)

- The level of social, environmental and economic project benefits to be gained. This may include improving:
- The efficiency and effectiveness of and access to local government services and facilities
- The health and quality of the natural environment, including increased efficiency in the use of natural resources
- The financial sustainability of your community, including generating an ongoing revenue stream, cost savings, or leveraging investment from third-parties.
- The urban environment, including safety, design landscape and green infrastructure
- Business and industry development including job creation and skills development
- Social equity and community cohesion

The **degree to which your project will transform** the government sector:

- By serving as a demonstration of best practice for others and the potential to scale up, roll out or replicate your solution in other communities; and/or
- By supporting improved regulation.

The extent of the **project's community focus** and impact on the liveability of the cities, suburbs and towns (20 points)

- The degree that your project will advance community goals including through alignment with any relevant strategic plans at the local, regional or state level.
- The level of engagement with citizens to ensure the project addresses community needs and has the support of the community.
- Your strategy to measure the project's success, including any targets and metrics

Your **capacity, capability and resources** to carry out the project (20 points)

- The role of each project partner and how you will collaborate with them to improve your project outcomes
- Your track record managing similar projects
- Your access to personnel with the right skills and experience
- Your existing access to, or future access to, any infrastructure, capital equipment, technology, intellectual property, licences, radiofrequency spectrum etc.
- Your plan to manage and monitor the project, including planned governance and accountability arrangements
- The identification of key risks to the project's success and proposed treatments
- The level of continued support for, or capacity to, extend the project outcomes once the project is complete.
- The cash and in-kind contributions of all project partners. Additional investments such as cash contributions over 50 per cent or in-kind contributions will be highly regarded

For more information on Smart Cities visit:  
<https://cities.dpnc.gov.au/>

# Smart Cities and Suburbs Program - Case Studies



## IT IS TIME TO GET INVOLVED

- Are you hearing about innovation and Smart Cities and wondering how to get involved?
- Are you confused about how technology can help your service delivery?
- Do you know about the Internet of Things and how it may be relevant?

The release of the Smart Cities Plan by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and recent launch of the new Smart Cities and Suburbs Grant Program reflects a national focus on innovation and technology. By taking advantage of the unprecedented pace of technological progress, governments and the community can make cities more prosperous and sustainable. The following case studies were developed to illustrate how local governments and agencies can utilise new technology to benefit their communities and cities.

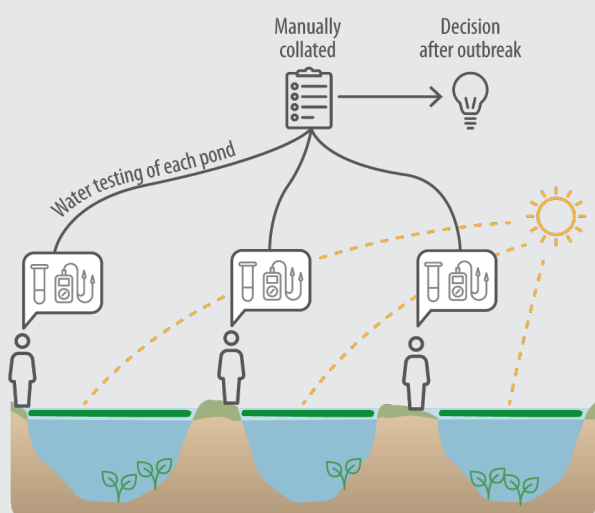
## CASE STUDY 1

### MANAGING THE ALGAE PROBLEM IN PUBLIC WATERWAYS

#### Problem Statement

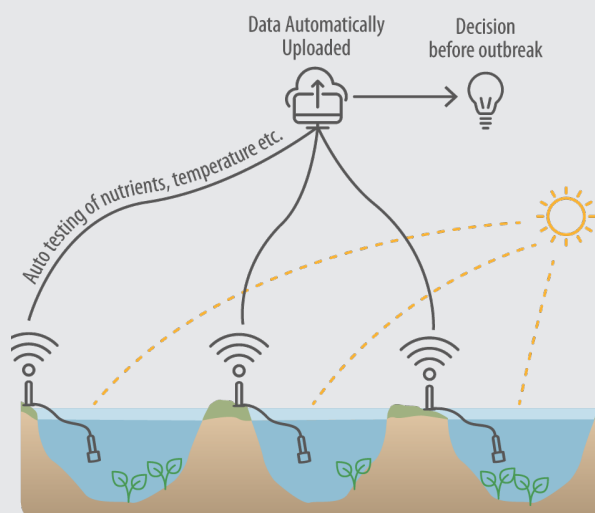
Algae blooms are a serious problem for Australian communities. The main effects of blue-green algae are deterioration of water quality and production of toxins, which can be deadly to animals.

#### Current Problem Management



- Reactive system > Authority reacts once the problem has arisen
- Highly labour intensive and slow process
- No big data
- Poor environmental quality

#### Technology-based Problem Management



- Proactive system > Authority is notified before the outbreak happens
- Automated process
- Use of big data
- Excellent environmental quality

**Solution:** Automating environmental monitoring increases the speed and effectiveness of management actions, saves considerable cost and provides a big data set to promote research into long term sustainable solutions.

## CASE STUDY 2

### FREE PUBLIC ACCESS WIFI

#### Problem Statement

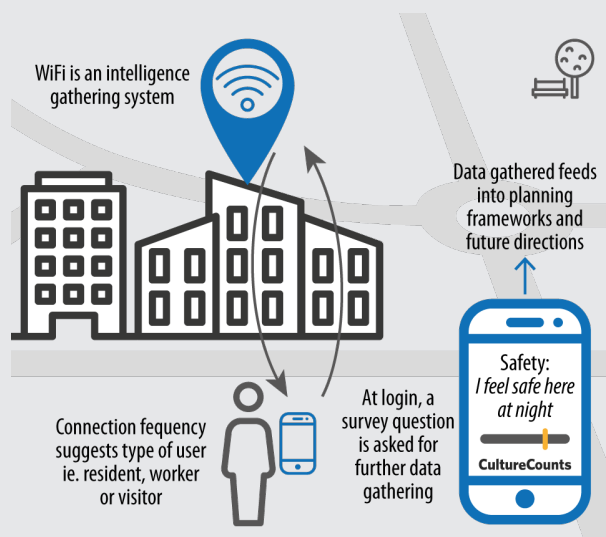
Local governments generally have limited useful data on the thoughts and opinions of residents and visitors regarding local activity centres, public events and places. Such a deficit in data leads to ad hoc decisions without reference to systemic evidence.

#### Current Situation



- WiFi is only a public service, not an information gathering tool
- No data on public thoughts and opinions

#### Technology-based Solution



- Opportunity to collect community and visitor feedback quickly and cost effectively
- Evidence-based decisions are made

**Solution:** Adding a simple analytics package to free public WiFi systems provides a wealth of data to guide public investment in place-making and events.

## STEP BY STEP IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

1. Specify a problem
2. Engage a private sector organisation to provide a potential solution design (feasibility study)
3. Write a partnership agreement (MOU/PPP)
4. Develop a Business Case for the Project which addresses:
  - o Innovation, smart technology and open data use
  - o Social, environmental and economic benefits
  - o Community focus and impact on liveability of cities, suburbs and towns
  - o Capacity, capability and resources of Local government to implement the project
5. Raise Funds (Smart Cities and Suburbs grant contributes up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs)
6. Execute the Project
  - o Pilot
  - o Rollout
7. Evaluate the process

## Improving your Application

### About the fund

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has set aside \$50 million for a new competitive grants program to support projects that apply innovative technology-based solutions to urban challenges - the *Smart Cities and Suburbs Program*. Eligible projects should align with one or more of four program priority areas:

- Smart Infrastructure
- Smart Precincts
- Smart Services and Communities
- Smart Planning and Design

**A successful application needs quantified evidence that addresses the following merit criteria:**

- Project is innovative and uses smart technology and open data
- Project delivers social, environmental and economic benefits
- Project has a community focus and impacts the liveability of the cities, suburbs and towns
- Applicant has capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project

### How we can help

Pracsys are highly experienced in the practicalities of applying for Commonwealth and state-based grant funding. We have a track record of assisting regional local governments and non-profit organisations to produce compelling business cases, feasibility studies and successful funding applications under Royalties for Regions and the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

Based on the BBRF standards it is expected that applicants will be submitting a Business Case to endorse claims made in relation to the merit criteria to increase the likelihood of receiving funding. We recommend you start early, giving yourself plenty of time to source evidence and produce a compelling application.

### More information:

For more information on Smart Cities visit:  
<https://cities.dpmc.gov.au/>

### Contact Us

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## Peer Review Process

Pracsys has developed a peer review process to ensure that your application sufficiently responds to the evidence requirements of the Smart Cities merit criteria and provides a level of detail relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested.

