

Regional Planning Hub Eligibility Criteria

Regional and rural councils are eligible for Regional Planning Hub assistance if they meet the criteria below. Priority for assistance will be given to councils that meet all or most of the criteria.

1. Need for assistance

A demonstrated need for surge support in statutory or strategic planning that will deliver outcomes on the ground.

For example, a council may be unable to meet statutory or other prescribed timeframes due (but not limited) to:

- an increase in planning permit applications or planning scheme amendments
- specific skills required outside of available resources
- staff shortages (leave arrangements and turnover periods unable to be absorbed internally)
- an emerging unforeseen critical planning need; or

The need to improve council's planning and economic development capacity.

For example, assistance will create capacity and resilience to enable a council to respond to and manage its planning function by:

- building land use planning capabilities in councils
- removing unnecessary permit triggers
- improving planning scheme or process
- providing clarity and guidance for decision making.

2. Statutory and strategic alignment

The assistance will support a matter of demonstrated sound planning need.

For example:

- a legislative or statutory requirement
- a matter that has clear links to state, regional or local policy
- strategic work identified from a planning scheme review or strategy, and/or
- a matter that aligns with Victorian Government priorities.

3. Social, environmental and economic impact

The assistance will contribute to regional Victoria's liveability.

For example:

- provides significant environmental and/or social benefits
- supports essential or vulnerable communities, industries or sectors
- contributes to maintaining the liveability and character of regional Victoria.

The assistance will support economic development and recovery in regional Victoria.

For example:

- supports council assessment of a planning permit application for a priority development
- makes changes to the planning scheme that remove triggers or streamline approvals (e.g. VicSmart) to facilitate development (make it easier or faster)
- provides clear policy direction for decision makers and certainty for investment.

4. Planning improvement

The assistance will deliver an improvement to a planning scheme and/or process.

For example:

- updates the planning scheme with current local content and policy
- implements completed strategic planning work that will improve decision making
- removes redundant provisions
- streamlines policy within one or across multiple planning schemes.