

Early Adopter Grant Program FAQs

The NSW Government is providing up to \$3 million in total to support councils to implement AI solutions from the AI Solutions Panel through the Early Adopter Grant Program.

Latest update: 10 May 2024

Grant FAQ

Grant name	Early Adopter Grant Program
Grant FAQ publish date	30 April 2024
Grant closing date	22 May 2024 11:00pm
Contact	ai.nsw@planning.nsw.gov.au

1. Who can apply for the grant?

All eligible NSW councils can apply for the grant. Details about the eligibility and evaluation criteria can be found in the Early Adopter Grant Program Guideline (grant guideline).

2. What is the timeline for the Early Adopter Grant Program?

Grant applications are now open and close at 11pm, 22 May 2024. Details about the timeline can be found in the grant guideline.

3. How will the grants be decided?

Details about the assessment and evaluation process, including all eligibility and evaluation criteria, are set out in the grant guideline.

4. Will additional rounds of the Grant Program be available in next financial year?

There is currently only one round of funding available.

Grant FAQ Update No.1

<i>Grant name</i>	Early Adopter Grant Program
<i>Grant FAQ update date</i>	10 May 2024
<i>Grant closing date</i>	22 May 2024 11:00pm
<i>Contact</i>	ai.nsw@planning.nsw.gov.au

5. What panel product licensing costs can be included as grant project eligible expenditure?

Each panel supplier will have a unique approach to calculating the cost of their licenses, and it’s important to understand the terms and conditions of the license agreement to determine the total cost.

Where the licences are perpetual, annual subscription (such as a lump sum upfront cost) fees can be included within the grant request, even if the licence period extends beyond the grant period, with eligible expenditure capped at a 12 month license for the panel product.

For other licence arrangements such as monthly and pay-as-you go these should be calculated for the term of the grant only.

After the grant, licences need to be fully funded by councils including renewals and top ups.

6. Can a grant project include expenditure for more than one of the panel products?

Yes.

Eligible expenditure can include procurement of more than one product from the AI Solutions Panel subject to the Grant Program conditions and requirements.

If a council chooses to include more than one panel product in its Grant application and:

- a) the products are not interdependent, the Council should ensure that its application addresses the Grant requirements for each product separately; or

- b) the products are interdependent, the Council should ensure that its application addresses the Grant requirements as whole.

7. Is the grant only available for the use of the three suppliers that were present at the showcase? Or is there scope for council to put forward a business case for another provider?

Only suppliers and products specified on the AI Solutions Panel may be selected by councils in their applications for Grant funding under this grant program.

8. Is it necessary that the project has to relate to pre-lodgement of application, or can it be reduction of DA assessment times as well?

The grant project must meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section D of the grant guideline. Section D at eligibility criteria 3 provides that an applicant must:

3. identify an opportunity where a supplier solution from the AI Solutions Panel can help to achieve a minimum of one of the following:

- a. decrease average timeframes associated with DA workflows*
- b. improve the DA submission to lodgement success rate*
- c. time or process efficiencies for pre-lodgement related activities*

9. Is the AI tool to be customer facing or for internal use?

The tool can be for either:

- a) customer facing use;
- b) internal use; or
- c) customer facing and internal use.