SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Australian Government has invested $29.2 million over four years to promote sustainable development in high growth regions across Australia through the Sustainable Regional Development program. This program is one of the measures under Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities: A Population Strategy for Australia. The program will facilitate strategic assessments under Australia’s national environmental law – the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Sustainable regional communities are places that meet the needs of their current residents while considering the needs of future communities. Australia as a nation is experiencing significant changes in our population and economy. This means that more than ever there is the need to plan and create places where people want to live now and in the future.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

The Sustainable Regional Development program is a holistic, flexible and innovative approach to long-term sustainable development in regional areas experiencing, or set to experience, high growth. The essential part of this program is engaging all levels of government and the community to share information and to foster an integrated and targeted path to sustainable development.

The Sustainable Regional Development program:
- protects matters of national environmental significance
- brings together all levels of government, the community, industry and research sectors
- is delivered through undertaking regional sustainability planning in selected high growth regions
- builds on the Australian Government’s existing experience in strategic assessments
- assists in streamlining environmental approvals, reducing the administrative burden for business and government
- provides greater certainty for investors in housing, infrastructure and natural resource development in high growth regions.
WHO WILL BE INVOLVED

The Australian Government will work with state and local governments and the community to achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Regional Development program. State governments will play a key role in identifying potential regions and local governments will facilitate engagement in their communities. Support may be provided to one local government authority in each region through a non-competitive grant. Each grant will support activities to increase the capacity of the community to engage with the program.

CONTACTS

For more information about the program including the regions we are working in please see our website:

environment.gov.au/rsp

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