



Department of  
**Energy and Economic  
Diversification**

# Spaceport Establishment Support Grant

## 2026 Guidelines

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# 1. Introduction

The Western Australian Government has identified the space industry as a priority sector for strategic development to diversify the economy under the *Diversify WA* framework.

The Western Australian Government has sought to further accelerate local space industry capability development through the \$2 million *Made in WA* commitment to support the establishment of a Western Australian space launch facility.

As part of the *Made in WA* commitment, the Western Australian Government has invested in the Spaceport Establishment Support (SES) Grant to accelerate the establishment of space launch facilities in the State. A spaceport is a site equipped for launching, receiving, testing, or maintaining spacecraft and rockets.

The SES Grant is run by the Western Australian Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (the Department).

The SES Grant is also a tool for the State to deliver against the *Western Australia Space Industry Strategy 2024-30*.

# 2. Western Australia Space Industry Strategy 2024-30

The Vision of the *Western Australia Space Industry Strategy 2024-30* is that Western Australia is a globally recognised Indo-Pacific space hub. The Mission is to drive the growth of Western Australia's space ecosystem. The Strategy sets itself the following six Goals to realise the Vision:

- Western Australia has a growing, vibrant and sustainable space ecosystem
- Western Australian space operations, exploration and technology transfer capability increases
- Western Australia attracts significant investment to support the space ecosystem
- Western Australian researchers, industries and government increase the utilisation of local space services, data and technology
- The Western Australian space ecosystem supports STEM education, promotion and training
- The Western Australian community's awareness of the value of space is enhanced.

To achieve these Goals, the Western Australian Government is taking action in six Priority Action Areas:

- **Advocacy:** Promote Western Australia's space industry sector capability locally, nationally and internationally.

- **Investment:** Support investment in Western Australia’s space ecosystem to enhance industry capability.
- **Opportunity facilitation:** Assist local, national and international space industry establish in Western Australia.
- **Commercialisation and technology transfer:** Assist commercialisation of local research outputs and facilitate technology transfer between industry sectors.
- **Coordination and policy:** Coordinate nationally and internationally through establishing and maintaining strong relationships with space organisations. Develop and implement policies supporting the local space ecosystem.
- **Skilled workforce:** Assist development of a local highly skilled workforce to enhance space and terrestrial industry capability.

## 3. About the grant

### 3.1. Overview, objectives and outcomes

The Spaceport Establishment Support (SES) Grant is a competitive Western Australian Government co-investment fund, managed by the Department.

The SES Grant is designed to:

- support the scaleup and expansion of spaceport businesses in Western Australia
- enhance investment into the State
- increase local space industry capability.

The Western Australian Government’s co-investment will support:

- site assessments required for planning and regulatory approvals, including securing a lease for the proposed spaceport site; and/or
- development of a business case for the proposed spaceport site.

## 4. Funding

### 4.1. Funding availability

There is a total of \$1.75 million funding available to support the SES Grant.

The funding may be awarded to one applicant or split to support multiple applicants. Recipients are required to provide a net cash co-contribution of at least 1:1 applicant to Western Australian Government funding.

For example, a project with a total cost of \$2,000,000 would require the funding recipient to provide a \$1,000,000 cash contribution to match the SES Grant of \$1,000,000.

Funding will be prioritised for applicants that demonstrate ongoing demand for their launch services and have identified a specific Western Australian site(s) to establish the spaceport.

The minimum grant request is for \$200,000 (excluding GST). It is important to note that funding will only be provided for costs determined to be eligible.

## 4.2. Eligible expenditure

SES Grant funds can be expended on:

### **1) Site assessments of the proposed Western Australia spaceport site(s)**

Grant funding may be spent on expenses related to the undertaking of site assessments and related studies.

Examples of site assessments and related studies include:

- Environmental impact assessment
- Native title assessment
- Heritage assessment
- Bushfire risk assessment
- Hydrology assessment
- Emissions assessment
- Launch and re-entry trajectory analysis
- Stakeholder consultation.

### **2) Business case development for your Western Australian spaceport**

Grant funding may be spent on expenses related to:

- employing supplier(s) to undertake business case development including:
  - market analysis
  - technical and financial feasibility
  - infrastructure requirements

- risk assessment
- employing additional team members to support business case development.

Other expenditure (not listed above) that supports site assessment of the proposed Western Australia spaceport site(s) or business case development for your Western Australian spaceport are also eligible.

Please note all expenditure must be incurred post the project commencement date and consistent with these guidelines.

### **4.3. Ineligible expenditure**

- contributions made ‘in-kind’
- expenditure incurred prior to the project commencement date
- expenditure for a spaceport site located outside of Western Australia (please note that Christmas Island and Cocos and Keeling Islands are considered part of Western Australia for the purposes of this grant)
- costs for projects which have already, or will also receive funding, from the State
- ongoing costs for business operations, such as lease and hire purchase agreements, licencing fees or banking fees
- salaries, wages and other staffing costs that are not directly related to the implementation of the project
- costs incurred after the practical completion of the project

Ineligible costs cannot be included as part of the applicant’s co-contribution to the Total Project Cost.

## **5. Eligibility**

### **5.1. Applicant eligibility**

- Your business is registered in Australia or be eligible to register for an Australian Business Number (ABN)
  - Businesses without an existing ABN, including foreign owned businesses, must apply or be in the process of applying for an ABN if their application is deemed successful.
  - Foreign-owned businesses are required to provide, as part of their application, a unique business identification number as accepted in their domicile.

- Local Government Authorities and other State and Commonwealth Government Departments (including statutory authorities and Government Trading Enterprises) are not eligible to apply for an SES Grant.
- Your business is a legal entity and has been a registered business for three years or more.
- Your business is solvent and will pass due diligence checks.
- Your business is in the space industry sector.
- Your business intends to establish a spaceport in Western Australia with site works to commence before 31 December 2029.
- Your business (if not a Western Australian business) will establish a subsidiary in Western Australia if application is successful.
- Your business will contribute at least 50% of the project funding costs.
- Your business confirms that the SES Grant will NOT be spent on ‘business as usual’ operational expenses.
- Your business confirms that the requested eligible expenditure is for services to be provided in the future.
- Your application is submitted on the SmartyGrants platform (link shown below) before the submission deadline.

## 6. Application

Applying for a SES Grant is a one-stage competitive process involving a written online application that needs to be submitted via the online grant platform (<https://wadeed.smartygrants.com.au/SESgrant>) together with other relevant attachments.

An Evaluation Panel will consider the applications. Please ensure you have received an email confirming that your application was submitted and keep this on file, for your reference.

Your application will first be assessed for its eligibility. Please run through the checklist, ensure your application is complete, and check everything required has been uploaded.

Only submit an application when you are ready, have agreements in place for the matching funds (and/or matched funds in the bank), and can commence your proposed project within the next few months.

Please make sure you submit your application before the advertised submission date and time. Only applications submitted prior to the deadline will be assessed.

If you have any queries on the application process please contact: space@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

## 6.1. Key dates

Item	Key Dates
Program opens for applications	Monday 16 February 2026
Application closing date	2 pm Friday 15 May 2026 (Australian Western Standard Time)

## 6.2. Evaluation Criteria

All eligible applicants will be assessed against the following criteria to determine the extent to which the application meets the investment requirements of the Western Australian Government. Consideration will be given to the scale of impact the Grant has on the applicant in comparison to other applicants.

For a competitive application, please address these six criteria as clearly as possible and use concrete evidence where possible such as signed Letters of Support or copies of relevant Memoranda of Understanding. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should allow assessors to determine your capacity and capability to deliver the project to completion.

Criterion	Weighting	Additional information
1. Proposed spaceport activities and infrastructure	20%	Applicants must describe the anticipated activities and infrastructure for the proposed spaceport. Applicants should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spaceport opportunity.</li><li>• Types of launch and frequency.</li><li>• Infrastructure to be established at the site.</li><li>• Western Australian services and supply chain that can support spaceport establishment and operation.</li><li>• Anticipated spaceport establishment and operation costs.</li><li>• Evidence of launch provider support.</li></ul>
2. Proposed spaceport location	20%	Applicants must describe the proposed site for the spaceport. Applicants should consider:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch corridors/orbit access.</li> <li>• Existing support infrastructure.</li> <li>• Current land-use.</li> <li>• Services.</li> <li>• Workforce requirement.</li> <li>• Additional opportunities (e.g. returns; point-to-point space transportation; green energy availability/utilisation; manufacturing; shared infrastructure; tourism etc).</li> <li>• Evidence of stakeholder support.</li> <li>• Known objections to the proposed site.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Proponent capability and capacity</b>	20%	Applicants to provide evidence of experience, capability and capacity to establish and operate a spaceport or space infrastructure in Australia or internationally.
<b>4. Anticipated benefit to Western Australia (through establishment and operation of the spaceport)</b>	20%	Applicants should consider the proposed spaceport's impact on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobs growth</li> <li>• Economic diversification</li> <li>• Space industry capability growth</li> <li>• Regional benefits</li> <li>• Return on investment/leverage (short, medium, long-term)</li> <li>• Government priorities.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Western Australia spaceport financial sustainability</b>	10%	Applicants should provide evidence of future launch demand for spaceport use including anticipated funding sources for long-term spaceport sustainability.
<b>6. Need for funding</b>	10%	Applicants to provide a detailed description of their SES Grant funding request including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• justification for Western Australian Government financial support</li> <li>• evidence of financial investment in the form of committed cash that matches or exceeds the financial assistance amount requested from the State. This can include financial investment from the applicant and/or its project partner(s), the private sector, or financial institutions</li> <li>• consideration will be given to applicants' financial capacity and capability to deliver the proposal.</li> </ul>

## 6.3. Evaluation Panel

The Department will engage an Evaluation Panel to assess applications based on the above criteria, and to make recommendations for funding.

To assist with their decision making, the panel may seek additional advice from spaceport experts and/or request additional evidence to support claims against the evaluation criteria.

The deliberations of the Evaluation Panel and all related information and material are strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (see Conditions and Obligations, p.9).

The Evaluation Panel's recommendations will be submitted to the Minister for Science and Innovation for approval. The decision of the Minister on allocation of funds is final and at the full discretion of the Minister.

## 6.4. Outcome communications and feedback

Eligible applicants will be notified by email on the outcome of their application after the sitting of the Evaluation Panel. Successful applicant(s) will be publicly announced by the Minister for Science and Innovation. As part of this and other media, the Department may disclose selected high-level details to the public, such as business name, proposed spaceport site and grant value.

Feedback can be sought from the Department following the confirmation of outcome.

# 7. Conditions and obligations

## 7.1. For Recipients

### 1. Enter into a Financial Assistance Agreement with the Department

Successful applicant(s) under the SES Grant are required to enter into a written Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) with the Department, who administers the grant. No rights to financial assistance are accrued until such time as the FAA has been entered into by the relevant parties.

The FAA will outline the terms and conditions under which the Department provides funding, including project performance, publicity and reporting issues. The Department specifies the conditions and obligations of funding prior to the disbursement of any funds.

Businesses recommended for funding may be required to provide more detailed information about their business. Applications may be subject to due diligence, technical, financial and economic appraisals.

## **2. Cyber safety responsibility**

Recipients of funding under the SES Grant are expected to keep their funded projects ‘cyber-safe’. The onus is on the recipient to ensure all data is kept secure. The Department cannot be held responsible for the cyber safety, or otherwise, of funded projects.

## **3. Participate in post-funding reviews**

Financial support provided by the Department under this grant may be subject to a post-funding review. The Recipient(s) is required to participate in surveys conducted by the Department up to three years after the funding ceases.

## **4. Co-contribution towards project**

Government financial assistance for the project will cover 50% of the total eligible costs up to a maximum of \$1,750,000. Recipients are required to pay the remaining 50% (or more) of total eligible costs, in cash.

## **5. Grant payments**

Grant payments to the successful applicant(s) are via electronic funds transfer (EFT). The payment schedule will be determined in FAA negotiations.

## **6. GST excluded**

The Department does not regard the SES Grant as payment for a supply. Thus, the Department does not increase the grant to include GST, nor does it reimburse a grant recipient for GST paid or payable to a third party. The grant recipient is required to obtain their own financial advice where required.

## **7. Consultant/ Supplier/ Service Provider(s)**

The FAA is between the Department and the successful applicant. Consultant/ Supplier/ Service provider(s) (if used) shall have no contractual, legal or equitable rights against the Department.

## **8. Conflicts of interest**

Applicants are required to disclose any information that might be relevant to an actual, likely or potential conflict of interest.

## **9. Freedom of Information, Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information**

Applicants must keep confidential any dealings with the Department about their application, including any financial assistance offered, but may make disclosures to advisors who are under an obligation of confidence or if required by law.

The State and the Department reserves the right to publicly disclose the names of applicants, general information about funding and assistance provided, and details about the anticipated economic outcomes and benefits to the State. The State and the Department may also disclose confidential information of, or provided by, the applicant:

- a) if required to be disclosed by law;
- b) to its advisors, consultants and contractors; and/or
- c) to any government agency.

Applicants are informed that the Department is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA) ('FOI Act'), which provides a general right of access to records held by State agencies and local governments. Under the FOI Act, applicants should be aware that information pertaining to the receipt of State Government funding may be tabled in the Western Australian Parliament. This information could include the names of recipients, the amount of funding the name of the project/activity and, possibly, a brief description thereof. This could result in requests for more detail to be released publicly.

Applicants should clearly identify all commercial-in-confidence material, noting that recipient name, funding amount, total cost, and a brief recipient project description may be published for all successful applicants.

Successful applicants should be aware that their organisation's name, investment name and amount of funding approved will appear on the Department's website and potentially in media releases.

The Department reserves the right to discuss an application with a third party if it is deemed necessary to assist in assessing the application.

State agencies are subject to the legislative and administrative accountability and transparency requirements of the State, including disclosures to the Western Australian Parliament and its Committees. As such, applicants should be aware that disclosure of information outside of State agencies may occur if the information is required or is authorised to be disclosed by law.

## **10. Media and promotions**

All media enquiries or public announcements relating to the Grant are coordinated and managed by the Department's media team. Where possible, all media and

communications about investments will be undertaken jointly with successful applicants. Recipients must:

- a) seek and obtain the Department's approval before making public statements, or contacting or responding to the media, regarding successful or unsuccessful applications;
- b) provide the Department with at least 10 business days' notice of any proposed media event; and
- c) provide any proposed media or public statement to the Department for approval prior to its release as well as make any changes or amendments to the form, content or manner reasonably requested by the Department.

## **11. Code of conduct**

Successful applications for the Grant will comply with all relevant laws and ensure the services they provide and/or participate in proactively address, manage and where possible avoid any unwelcome behaviours that offends, humiliates or intimidates a person. Unwelcome behaviour can include physical, verbal or visual conduct (e.g. in the form of posters, email or SMS messages). Successful applicants are expected to treat all people with respect and courtesy.

# **8. Disclaimers**

The provision of financial assistance under the Western Australian Government's SES Grant is at the absolute discretion of the Department and the Minister for Science and Innovation. Nothing in the application process, the selection process or any associated documentation shall give rise to any:

- a) legal relations or any process or other contract between the Minister or the Western Australian Government on the one hand and the applicant on the other; or
- b) legitimate expectations on the part of the applicant.