Queensland Independent Schools
BGA
Block Grant Authority

External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme
Eligibility Help Notes

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EIS School and Project Eligibility

An EIS grant application cannot be made, or an approved project cannot be paid, if commencement of or payment for the work precedes any announcement of Ministerial approval.

School Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for EIS capital assistance schools, and new campuses of existing schools, must:

- be accredited and eligible for recurrent funding under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 Act, and
- enter into a Participation Agreement with QIS BGA, i.e., become formally listed as a participating school prior to lodging an application for capital assistance.

The eligibility status of new schools and campuses

To enable QIS BGA to recommend an application for funding, a new independent school or campus must have been accredited by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Newly accredited schools and campuses will be required to enter into a QIS BGA Participation Agreement, as listed above, confirming QIS BGA as the school's Capital Assistance Authority. New schools and campuses working through the processes of accreditation at the time of making an EIS application will have successful applications held over until formal notification of accreditation can be provided to QIS BGA.

Project Eligibility

Ineligible Projects

Funding will not be provided for an EIS project if:

- a contract for the project has been entered into, or site work or other work for the project has commenced, prior to the announcement of Ministerial approval
- an Infrastructure Charges Notice is paid prior to the announcement of Ministerial approval
- the facility has religious worship as its sole or principal purpose
- the project is related to a temporary site at which special assistance is provided under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017, chapter 2, part 4

Eligible Projects

- For a project to be eligible for an External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme (EIS) grant, the infrastructure charge and/or external infrastructure work must be:
- a requirement of a relevant entity, i.e., a Minister or a government entity under the Public Service Act 2008, section 24 or the local government for the area in which the school is located
- external to the school site, and
- triggered by the development of any school-based capital project.

NOTE- The relationship between external and internal works, such as pickup/set down areas and easement-related requirements, may also result in eligibility of works within a school's boundary.

The School-Based Capital Project Requirement

Under the EIS Guidelines, EIS grants are established in support of, or 'triggered' by, any school-based capital project. The triggering capital project does not need to be approved for a grant under the Australian Government Capital Grants Program (CGP) or the State Capital Assistance Scheme (SCAS).

For the purposes of applying for capital assistance, EIS grants or 'projects' assisting schools with infrastructure charges and external infrastructure work are stand alone and not linked to any other capital projects in receipt of grant funds.

Types of Eligible Projects

EIS applications typically arise from conditions of an approval to develop, either a local government Development Approval (DA) or a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID). In some instances, other relevant entities such as Energex, Ergon, Urban Utilities or Unitywater may also issue schools with requirements which may be eligible for EIS assistance. Projects which are eligible for grants under EIS include infrastructure or headworks charges arising from an Infrastructure Charge Notice (ICN) or Project Work (PW) delivering eligible external infrastructure.

Infrastructure Charges- EIS (ICN) Application

Applications for grants in support of infrastructure charges may be submitted when the charge has been established through an Infrastructure Charges Notice (ICN), or similar, issued by a local Council or other relevant entity.

ELIGIBILITY NOTE- An ICN must remain unpaid until the State Minister for Education announces grant approval AND a QIS BGA Recipient School Agreement has been executed to indicate the Approved Authorities acceptance of the grant and its conditions. The date of Agreement execution must be prior to the date on the evidence of payment of the charges.

External Infrastructure Project Work- EIS (PW) Application

External Infrastructure Project Work must relate to a development condition or requirement to provide infrastructure external to the school site (as issued by local council, the Department of State Development or other relevant entity). This includes, but is not limited to, design and construction of connections to water, sewerage or telecommunications services or transport related works (refer Appendix 1). Note that work within an easement internal to the school site, such as for stormwater management or electrical provisions, as well as internal pickup/set down areas will be given consideration.

Professional fees and local authority charges are eligible for inclusion in the estimated total cost (ex GST) of a proposed project.

EIS applications for Project Work (PW) may be submitted when a proposed project has been fully costed, with the opinion of costs being prepared a professional consultant, such as an engineer or QS.

ELIGIBILITY NOTE- A contract for the work may not be signed until the State Minister for Education announces grant approval AND a QIS BGA Recipient School Agreement has been executed to indicate the Approved Authorities acceptance of the grant and its conditions. The date of Agreement execution must be prior to the date on the contract for the work.

For further information on EIS project eligibility, please contact the QIS BGA EIS Program Manager on (07) 3839 2142.

Grant Requests for EIS Projects

Subject to the number and value of applications in any round, provision of a subsidy of up to 50% of the total costs of a proposed project will be considered.

From the January 2027 round onward, External Infrastructure Project Work- EIS (PW) grants will be subject to a funding cap of $2 million (equivalent to 50% subsidy of a $4 million project). The value of the funding cap will be subject to annual review and adjustment.

The funding cap does not apply to grants for Infrastructure Charge Notices (ICNs), and it will not apply retrospectively to grants approved prior to the January 2027 round.

Making EIS Applications

Applications for grants in relation to infrastructure charges EIS (ICN) or project work EIS (PW) will be made via the Enquire grant management system (GMS). Any schools needing to register their Client Portal users for the GMS should contact the QIS BGA Office Administrator on (07) 3839 2142.

For further information on making an EIS application the EIS Application Help Notes are available on the QIS BGA website or contact the QIS BGA EIS Program Manager on (07) 3839 2142.

Appendix 1 - External Infrastructure Project Work Examples

External infrastructure project works generally fall into one of the following categories:

Type	Examples
Ancillary Structures	Retaining Walls, Bollards, Balustrading, Handrails, Fencing, Gates, Shade Structures, Screens, Services Enclosures, Street Furniture
Civil Landscaping (Erosion and Sediment Control Measures)	Topsoil to Turf areas, Topsoil to Garden Bed Areas, Turf, Hydro-mulch
Communications Services	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Pit/s, Fibre Optic Cable Reticulation in Conduit
Earthworks	Clearing, Bulk Earthworks, Fill, Soil Treatment, Detailed Excavation and Trimming
Electrical Services	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Substation/s, Transformer/s, Switchboard/s, Distribution Board/s, Circuit Breakers, Mains and Sub-mains reticulation in Conduit, Pit/s, Lighting, Fittings
Fire Services	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Pipework reticulation, Hydrant/s, Hose Reel/s, Valve/s, Fittings
Gas Services	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Pipework reticulation, Metering, Valve/s, Fittings
Infrastructure Agreements	An Infrastructure Agreement is a written agreement between the Approved Authority, a developer and/or a relevant entity about: • the supply or funding of infrastructure, and • payment and refund mechanisms towards the cost of supplying or funding trunk infrastructure. An Infrastructure Agreement: • establishes the obligations of each party • provides the timing of the Agreement, and • identifies the Schedule of Works.
Infrastructure charges	Charges for payment, as issued by a relevant entity, regarding connection to or the increased demand on trunk infrastructure networks, such as water supply, sewer, stormwater, transport, parks and community facilities
Landscaping	Required landscape works such as re-vegetation and/or planting, creation of screening when in proximity to Pick-up/Set Down Areas
Pathways (Pedestrian and Bicycle Access, Extension, Widening, Additional Lanes, Crossings)	Pedestrian Access and Safety Devices such as, Concrete Pathways, Accessibility Ramps, Tactile Indicators, Line Marking, Lighting
Preliminaries	Site Establishment, Demolition, Make Good, Contingency
Professional Consultant and Authority fees	Development costs, such as project management costs, consultant deliverables, fees and permits, Portable Long Service Leave

Roadworks (New, Extension, Widening, Additional Lanes, Deceleration and Turning Lanes, Roundabouts, External Car-parking, Pick-up and Set-down (External and Internal), Short-Term Parking (External and Internal), Intersections)	Site Preparation, Substrate Preparation, Testing, Surfacing, Traffic Islands, Kerb and Channel, Wheel Stops, Vehicle Barriers, Line Marking, Cross-over to Driveway, Lighting
Security Services	Safety Devices e.g. Pick-up/Set Down Surveillance provisions and Intercom point/s, Lighting
Sewer Drainage	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Pipework reticulation, Manholes, Pumpstations
Stormwater Drainage	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Pipework reticulation, Silt traps, Erosion Control measures, Flood Mitigation measures, Environmental Control measures, Pit/s, Manhole/s, Culverts, Headwall/s, Storage Tank/s, Retention Basin/s, Swale/s, Surface Inlets, Overland Flow Mitigation measures
Traffic	Bus stops, Pick-up/Set-down areas, Signalling, Signage, Acoustic Fences, Safety Audits
Water Services	Connection/s to existing infrastructure, Pipework reticulation, Metering, Valve/s, Fittings
Works within an Easement	Where services, such as water, sewer, drainage, power, gas or telecommunications are delivered by a relevant entity to and across the school site, via a registered easement, rendering the land unable to be used for purposes that restrict the relevant entities access.