

Queensland Rugby Union

Community Rugby LED Lighting Upgrade Program

Consortium Governance Framework
Game On: Teaming Up for Climate Action — Round 1
QRU Consortium Submission Deadline: 26 June 2026

1. About This Document

This document sets out how QRU will form and manage the consortium for the Game On: Teaming Up for Climate Action (Round 1) grant program. It covers which projects are eligible, how clubs will be screened, and what is expected of clubs that are approved for inclusion.

It is a working document for QRU staff and participating clubs. It is not a substitute for the Australian Government's Grant Opportunity Guidelines, which all clubs are encouraged to read independently.

2. Why This Program

The LED Lighting Upgrade Program aligns to the aspirations of the QRU Community Facilities Strategy 2026–30, which is a clear, evidence-based framework to guide the development of community rugby facilities across the state.

Whilst the project aligns with several elements outlined in the strategy, the most relevant strategic pillar is Improve Existing Venue Capacity — which focuses on maximising the carrying capacity and activation of existing rugby union playing fields and venues. Good lighting directly extends the usable hours of existing fields, enabling more teams, more sessions, and better access for female and junior participants. A secondary benefit is the reduction in operating costs that LED technology delivers compared to ageing metal halide and incandescent systems, freeing up funds for programs and participation.

The Game On program provides a direct and timely mechanism to accelerate these strategic priorities across the QLD rugby network.

3. Project Scope

To keep the consortium manageable and deliverable within the grant timeframe and resourcing capacity, QRU is focusing on a consistent, low-risk project type.

In Scope

- LED retrofit of existing metal halide, halogen or incandescent sports lighting
- Using existing pole infrastructure — no new poles
- Targeting a minimum 100 lux outcome (AS2560.2:2021 Club Competition standard)
- Minor electrical compliance works directly associated with the LED retrofit
- Lighting control or timer systems

Out of Scope

The following will not be included in the QRU consortium. Clubs with these needs should consider applying directly to the Government program as an individual applicant.

- Pole replacements or new pole installations
- New field lighting where no existing infrastructure exists
- Major electrical upgrades, new switchboard connections, or trenching
- Structural engineering works
- Clubhouse, amenity or any other facility works such as the installation of solar batteries

4. Club Eligibility & Selection

To be considered, clubs must:

- Meet the eligibility criteria listed in the Australian Government's Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- Be a current QRU-affiliated club
- Be an incorporated entity (Incorporated Association, Company or Cooperative) with a current ABN
- Maintain, or be actively working toward, Rugby Australia Club Impact Program compliance
- Have existing pole infrastructure suitable for LED retrofit
- Be able to obtain all necessary owner or council approvals within the program timeline
- Be willing and able to contribute financially to any project costs not covered by the grant

Where demand exceeds places, priority will be given to clubs that:

- Have demonstrated participation growth (e.g. increasing registered player numbers, new teams added, women's or junior program growth)
- Have made a confirmed financial co-contribution to the project
- Can demonstrate strong delivery readiness — meaning a supplier has been contacted, a quote is obtainable within the documentation window, and the approvals pathway is clear
- Show the greatest transition from legacy lighting technology (incandescent / metal halide) to LED
- Are in good standing with the Rugby Australia Club Impact Program

5. EOI & Selection Process

The EOI is the primary screening tool. Clubs are asked to think carefully before submitting — the questions are designed to surface readiness, not create it. Clubs that have already been thinking about a lighting upgrade, have spoken to their council or asset owner, or have received a quote previously will move through this process more easily. Clubs that are starting from scratch may find the timeline difficult.

Before You Submit an EOI — Ask Yourself:

- ✓ Do you have existing lighting poles on your field/s?
- ✓ Is your current lighting metal halide, halogen or incandescent (not already LED)?
- ✓ Has your club had measurable participation growth in recent seasons?
- ✓ Do you know who owns the land your ground sits on — and can you contact them quickly?
- ✓ Has your club had any prior conversations with council or your asset owner about lighting?
- ✓ Can your club contribute financially to the project (even a small co-contribution)?
- ✓ Could you obtain a supplier quote within a week if needed?

If you answered No to the first two questions, your project is likely out of scope for this consortium.
If you answered No to most of the others, this program may not be the right fit at this time.

The EOI form will ask clubs to provide responses across these areas. QRU will use EOI responses to complete an initial assessment — clubs that clearly do not meet scope or readiness requirements will be notified promptly so they can consider whether to pursue an individual application to the Government program before the 8 July 2026 deadline.

Stage 1 EOI Submission <i>Opens mid-June Closes 19 June 2026</i>	Stage 2 QRU Assessment <i>19–21 June 2026</i>	Stage 3 Documentation <i>21–25 June 2026</i>	Stage 4 QRU Submits <i>26 June 2026</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club submits online EOI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRU reviews all EOIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved clubs only • Supplier quote provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QRU lodges consortium application

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site & infrastructure details • Asset owner relationship • Co-funding indication • Prior conversations with council / asset owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope and eligibility check • Delivery readiness assessed • Prioritisation applied if oversubscribed • All clubs notified in writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner approval confirmed • Co-funding commitment locked • Declaration letter signed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf of all member clubs • Government assesses Aug 2026 • Outcomes expected Sep 2026
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6. What Is Expected of Approved Clubs

Clubs that are approved for inclusion in the consortium are committing to the following:

Before Submission (by 25 June 2026)

- Complete the Project EOI form on the QRU website
- Provide a supplier quote for the LED retrofit works
- Confirm owner or council approval (or a clear pathway to obtaining it)
- Execute the mandatory declaration letter provided by QRU
- Confirm co-funding contribution amount (if applicable)

If the Grant is Approved (from November 2026)

- Not commence any project works before the grant agreement is executed
- Engage a licensed Queensland electrical contractor to undertake the works
- Complete all works and provide a post-installation photometric report by 30 March 2028
- Maintain all invoices, receipts and records for a minimum of seven years
- Provide progress updates to QRU as required (6-monthly)
- Acknowledge the Australian Government in any public communications about the project

7. Important Notes

Inclusion in the QRU consortium does not guarantee funding.

The Australian Government will assess the consortium application and make final funding decisions. QRU cannot guarantee outcomes on behalf of the Government.

Consortium places are limited.

QRU reserves the right to prioritise projects based on delivery readiness, scope fit and strategic alignment. Submission of an EOI is not an offer of inclusion.

Clubs not selected for the consortium can still apply individually.

Clubs whose projects are in scope but do not make the consortium cut remain fully eligible to submit an individual application directly to the Government program by 8 July 2026. QRU will notify unsuccessful clubs promptly to allow time for this. QRU can support these applications via letters of support and future inclusion in the QLD Rugby Community Facilities Strategy should compliance requirements be met.

Clubs in the consortium cannot submit a separate individual application.

Clubs approved for the consortium will not be eligible to apply independently in Round 1 or Round 2 of the Game On program.

No costs can be incurred before the grant agreement is signed.

Any works started before November 2026 will be ineligible for funding.

Project coordination is centralised; delivery is local.

While QRU manages the consortium application and reporting, clubs are responsible for on-site delivery. This includes facilitating site inspections, liaising with the asset owner, and providing site access during installation.

Questions?

Contact the QRU Facilities Program Lead at John.Butterworth@rugby.com.au

The Australian Government Grant Opportunity Guidelines are available at grants.gov.au.

This is an internal QRU working document. It does not constitute a binding offer by QRU or the Australian Government. Grant program details are governed by the official Game On: Teaming Up for Climate Action Round 1 Grant Opportunity Guidelines (grants.gov.au). QRU reserves the right to amend or withdraw this program at any time.