

The latest 2026 open ARENA Manufacturing Grants - Government Grants to Know About - 2026 Update

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/articles/government-grants-update-australia/>

Details:

Home > Articles > The latest 2026 open ARENA Manufacturing Grants - Government Grants to Know About - 2026 Update

The latest 2026 open ARENA Manufacturing Grants - Government Grants to Know About - 2026 Update

Published: May 1, 2026.

The Australian Government Grants Finder is an online tool available at business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs that allows businesses to discover grant opportunities by location, purpose and status. Users can search and filter grants relevant to their industry, state and project type. However, a grant remaining online does not establish that applications are currently open. Before relying on any opportunity, businesses should verify the administering body's current programme guidelines and the specific round's conditions, as these define actual eligibility and deadlines. This verification step prevents pursuing closed or unsuitable programmes.

Publication context: This article reflects its publication date. Market prices, program rules, reporting duties and deadlines may have changed. Confirm current official guidance before making a decision.

If you're searching for government grants in Australia this month, October brings a strong pipeline of funding opportunities supporting innovation, commercialisation, industrial decarbonisation and business growth. Governments continue to invest in technologies that will strengthen Australia's future industries while helping businesses reduce emissions and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

For businesses developing new products, scaling clean technologies or investing in advanced manufacturing, now is an ideal time to begin preparing competitive grant applications.

Open Government Grants for Australian Industry - October 2026

Future Made in Australia Innovation Fund (Australia)

Supports businesses developing innovative technologies that strengthen Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability, improve productivity and accelerate commercialisation across priority industries.

Funding available for eligible innovation and manufacturing projects.

SME Industrial Decarbonisation Fund

Provides funding to small and medium-sized manufacturers investing in energy efficiency, electrification and emissions reduction projects that improve competitiveness while lowering operating costs.

Supports practical projects delivering measurable energy and carbon savings.

Singapore Pilots for Energy & Enterprise Decarbonisation (SPEED)

Supports pilot projects that help businesses demonstrate innovative decarbonisation technologies across industrial and commercial facilities in Singapore.

Designed to accelerate adoption of low-carbon technologies with strong commercial potential.

SME Industrial Decarbonisation Fund

Provides funding to small and medium-sized manufacturers investing in energy efficiency, electrification and emissions reduction projects that improve competitiveness while lowering operating costs.

Supports practical projects delivering measurable energy and carbon savings.

Territory Growth Initiative (NT)

Supports Northern Territory businesses investing in expansion, innovation, advanced manufacturing and economic development projects that create long-term regional growth.

Available across a range of industries with a focus on business capability and investment.

Energy Efficiency Grant (EEG) - Singapore

Supports eligible Singapore businesses purchasing energy-efficient equipment to reduce energy consumption and improve operational efficiency.

Offers up to S\$30,000 under the Base Tier and up to S\$350,000 across the Base and Advanced tiers, subject to eligibility and demonstrated energy savings .

Carbon Innovation Grants Program - Round 3 (WA)

Supports Western Australian heavy industry businesses and project partners developing innovative technologies and methods that reduce carbon emissions.

Funding is available for feasibility studies, pilot projects and capital works that progress emissions reduction solutions towards commercial viability.

Net Zero Planning Grant - Round 2 (NSW)

The Net Zero Planning Grant has reopened for a new round, with Round 2 applications opening on 1 September 2026. Supports eligible NSW businesses developing emissions inventories, assessing climate-related risks and opportunities, setting emissions reduction targets and preparing net zero action plans.

Provides up to \$25,000, covering up to 50% of eligible costs. Applications close on 30 November 2026, or earlier if funding is exhausted.

What the Current Funding Landscape Tells Us

October's funding opportunities highlight several priorities across Australia and Singapore:

Support for innovation and commercialisation

Investment in advanced manufacturing and future industries

Funding to pilot and demonstrate low-carbon technologies

Practical energy-efficiency upgrades that reduce operating costs

Continued support for industrial decarbonisation and energy productivity

Funding for emissions assessments and net zero planning

Businesses investing in innovation, technology development and industrial transformation should explore how these programs align with their project plans. With support spanning early planning, feasibility studies, pilot projects and equipment upgrades, identifying the right funding pathway early can help businesses prepare stronger applications.

Stay Ahead of Grant Openings

The hardest part of government grants isn't writing the application - it's knowing when the right program opens.

Follow Northmore Gordon on LinkedIn or join our grants newsletter to stay informed about new programs, reopened funding rounds and upcoming opportunities, including ARENA manufacturing grants. We track what's open, what's closing and what's coming next.

Northmore Gordon can help you assess eligibility, identify suitable energy and carbon projects, and prepare a competitive grant application.

Scheme and certificate context

Before using a certificate or grant figure, confirm the current scheme method, eligible activity, effective date, evidence requirements, price date and registration or application process.

Related guidance

Certificate services

Government schemes

Contact us

Read the original article for the source publication and its full context.

What is the Australian Government Grants Finder and how can businesses use it to discover funding opportunities?

The Australian Government Grants Finder is an online tool available at business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs that allows businesses to discover grant opportunities by location, purpose and status. Users can search and filter grants relevant to their industry, state and project type. However, a grant remaining online does not establish that applications are currently open. Before relying on any opportunity, businesses should verify the administering body's current programme guidelines and the specific round's conditions, as these define actual eligibility and deadlines. This verification step prevents pursuing closed or unsuitable programmes.

What should businesses establish before committing to a grant as a funding source for an energy project?

Before treating a grant as secured funding, businesses must establish applicant eligibility, project eligibility, the current funding round, application deadline, eligible expenditure categories, and approval and payment conditions. Using a funding status register to record the exact programme and round, source URL, date checked, application status and next action helps prevent labelling potential contributions as committed funding. Presenting the project with and without conditional funding ensures management understands the full decision context. Early funding investigation clarifies what information to retain and prevents outdated listings from becoming unsupported promises in investment cases.

How do the five open grants mentioned in the September 2026 update differ in their focus areas?

The Future Made in Australia Innovation Fund targets innovative manufacturing and commercialisation across priority industries. The Clean Technology Innovation Grant focuses on NSW organisations

piloting clean technologies from laboratory validation toward commercial deployment. The Singapore Pilots for Energy & Enterprise Decarbonisation programme supports industrial and commercial decarbonisation pilots. The SME Industrial Decarbonisation Fund targets small and medium manufacturers investing in energy efficiency and electrification with measurable savings. The Territory Growth Initiative supports Northern Territory business expansion and advanced manufacturing. Each addresses different organisational sizes, technologies, geographies and stages of development, requiring separate assessment against specific programme rules.

What does it mean that current government funding emphasises 'projects with strong commercial outcomes' and how should businesses prepare?

Government funding increasingly prioritises projects demonstrating clear commercial viability, long-term economic impact and measurable returns alongside environmental or innovation benefits. This means funding bodies assess not only technical merit but also business case robustness, operational sustainability and financial credibility. Businesses should prepare investment cases showing operating requirements, comparable financial assumptions across alternatives, realistic cost and benefit separation, and identified risks. We assist by developing business cases, investment analyses and measurement plans that connect technical feasibility with financial viability, helping applications demonstrate both innovation potential and commercial credibility to funding bodies.

Why is it important to distinguish between grants, certificates and financing arrangements when planning energy project funding?

Grants, certificates and financing arrangements operate under different rules, approval timelines and payment structures. Grants require verification of applicant and project eligibility before approval and payment. Environmental certificates depend on activity eligibility, evidence quality and market timing. Financing requires assessment of borrower terms, repayments and security. Combining these streams without checking compatibility restrictions, cost allocation and outcome ownership can create conflicts or jeopardise funding. Presenting the project separately with and without each funding stream helps management understand which components are resilient to delays or unavailability. We advise on funding pathway assessment to identify compatible mechanisms and the conditions that must be verified before commitment.

What practical first steps should a business take when considering a government grant for an energy efficiency project?

Begin by preparing a project brief describing the business decision, site location, existing equipment, available energy history, current project stage and decision deadline. Identify which energy data already exists and which gaps require measurement. Verify the applicable jurisdiction and any state-specific schemes, as requirements differ between NSW Energy Savings Scheme, Victorian Energy Upgrades and ACCU pathways. Simultaneously assess funding pathways by checking scheme eligibility, activity requirements and timing constraints before making procurement commitments. We assist through initial assessments that clarify which programmes suit the project stage, what evidence is missing, and how to sequence funding and measurement decisions to preserve eligibility and protect project timing.

How can businesses verify whether their project stage allows access to specific government grants or environmental certificates?

Project stage is critical because many schemes restrict participation based on commencement dates, investment commitments or prior incentives. Create a dated chronology listing feasibility approval, investment decisions, purchase commitments, installation dates and commissioning. ACCU schemes generally require registration before project activities start unless the method provides exceptions. Certificate schemes often require baseline measurement while pre-project conditions still exist. Before finalising equipment purchases or installation plans, verify the applicable scheme rule version and implementation date, as rules change. We provide project timing guidance and advisory support to

assess whether a proposed stage still allows the intended funding pathway and what evidence must be collected while it remains available.

What does Northmore Gordon recommend for staying informed about new grant openings and emerging funding opportunities?

We suggest following the company on LinkedIn or joining our grants newsletter to receive early notification when new programmes go live, including ARENA manufacturing grants and other emerging opportunities. Proactive monitoring allows businesses to assess emerging programmes against their project timelines and objectives before deadlines close. This approach helps businesses understand what funding is open, what is closing, and what is coming next, enabling better planning of project staging and funding sequencing. Early awareness also allows time for detailed eligibility assessment and evidence preparation before application deadlines, reducing rushed decisions and incomplete submissions.

How should businesses treat projected savings or certificate quantities when developing an investment case for a funded energy project?

Projected savings, certificate quantities and grant amounts are different outputs with different units, periods and calculation bases. Each should appear separately in the investment case with its own evidence, assumptions and timing. Engineering estimates of savings should be distinguished from verified operating results and from certificate quantities issued under scheme rules. Show certificate price and quantity assumptions separately, and confirm whether a quoted amount is indicative gross value or what the customer would actually receive after agreed charges. Present the project both with and without conditional support to show management the operating merits independent of funding. This transparency prevents overstating returns and clarifies which project components are resilient to funding delays or changes.