

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT

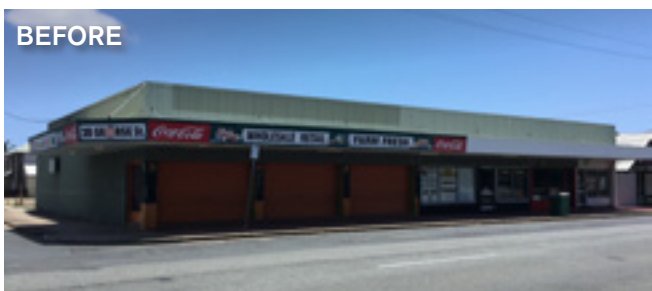
GRANT 2023-2024





FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

The Façade Improvement Grant is an incentive program created to encourage property owners and business operators improve the exterior appearance of their buildings and storefronts. The program is designed to promote quality façade improvements, enhance the streetscape appeal of our city and towns, attract patronage and stimulate the economy of the Mackay region.



PROGRAM AIMS

- ▶ To create highly visible and improved building façades (particularly historically significant buildings) contributing to the overall appeal of our streetscapes
- ▶ To improve the vibrancy and activation of our streets, leading to increased foot traffic and visitation
- ▶ To stimulate economic vitality through new tenancies, investment opportunities, increased patronage, and improved business sales.
- ▶ To deliver social and environmental benefits to our communities.

Applications will be assessed for commercial properties with active frontages located within the Mackay region local government area. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact council's Economic Development team.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Successful projects will be eligible for a co-contribution from council of up to 50% of the total project costs, with a maximum funding amount of up to \$5000. Applicants may wish to contribute additional funds beyond the matched contribution if they want to complete more significant works.

Grant funds are competitive and will be awarded to applications that best meet the Assessment Criteria.

Approval of funding is at the sole discretion of council.



ELIGIBILITY

The Facade Improvement Grant is open to property owners and tenants within the Mackay local government area.

TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- ▶ Building improvements must relate to properties with active, street-orientated frontages, or will be visible from the public realm e.g. adjacent to a laneway, carpark, arcade or walkway.
- ▶ Applications must be made prior to the project commencing.
- ▶ Only one application can be lodged, per commercial property, within a two-year period.
- ▶ Applications must be accompanied by the building owner's consent.
- ▶ Applicants must submit proof of current public liability insurance.
- ▶ All work being carried out must have the required permits and planning approvals. Building works that involve a heritage-listed building may require specific approvals.
- ▶ Applicant's contribution is required to be in cash and not in-kind.

Before lodging an application, we strongly recommend you contact council's Economic Development team to discuss your project on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) or Business@mackay.qld.gov.au.



WHAT WORKS WILL BE FUNDED?

- ▶ Painting of the façade and exterior walls visible to the public realm
- ▶ Reinstatement of exterior architectural and/or artistic features
- ▶ Restoration of historic buildings
- ▶ Installation of new business signage (permanent only)
- ▶ Renovations to entranceways, doors, tiles, and other façade elements
- ▶ Installation of decorative features (vertical gardens, planter boxes, hanging baskets) in consideration of neighbouring properties and streetscape
- ▶ Installation of external awnings, lighting, and windows visible from the street
- ▶ Renovations that promote environmental sustainability and energy efficiencies
- ▶ Renovations that promote community safety and accessibility.



WHAT WORKS WILL NOT BE FUNDED?

- ▶ Murals
- ▶ Works that are not visible from the public realm
- ▶ Temporary promotional signage
- ▶ Internal building works
- ▶ Works completed prior to application approval
- ▶ Equipment purchases (ladders, safety barriers and scaffolding). Hire of equipment is permitted when directly related to the project.
- ▶ Insurance, permits and approvals associated with the improvements
- ▶ Business marketing, operational or administrative costs related to the project.

It is recommended that applicants refer to council's Footpath Trading and Structures Policy Guidelines to identify permitted activities and approval processes. Further information can be found online at mackay.qld.gov.au





ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the below criteria.

Assessment Criteria	Description	Weighting
Visual impact	The proposed works will create a highly visible and greatly improved building façade, and contribute to the overall appeal of the streetscape	30%
Activation	The proposed works will contribute to improving the vibrancy and activation of the street frontage, leading to increased foot traffic and visitation	20%
Economic vitality	The proposed works has the potential to increase economic vitality by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attracting new customers and improving sales ▪ Attracting new tenants (or retaining existing tenant) ▪ Stimulating new investment / business opportunities ▪ Improving property values and/or increasing rental incomes ▪ Supporting local construction businesses and suppliers 	20%
Social and environmental considerations	The proposed improvements consider sustainable social and environmental benefits, including energy efficient options, community safety and / or accessibility	10%
Project management	The project is well-planned, managed by suitably skilled people, ready for commencement upon grant approval, and likely to be delivered to a high standard within six (6) months of grant approval	10%
Budget	The project budget demonstrates a reasonable financial contribution to the project by the applicant, is realistic and provides value for money	10%



APPLICATION PROCESS

Before lodging a Façade Improvement Grant application, we strongly recommend applicants contact the Economic Development team on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) to discuss the proposed project.

1

Complete an online application form via mackay.smartygrants.com.au

Include:

- + High resolution before photos (free from obstruction) showing areas to be improved
- + Drawings, documentation and/or plans detailing the proposed improvements
- + Schedule of works including timeframes
- + Two written quotes from licensed contractors submitted with the application. Note, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that chosen contractors are aware of all council compliance and Worksafe Queensland regulations.
- + Project budget and evidence of financial ability to meet remaining costs of the works upfront (eg. bank statement, etc)
- + Supporting documentation including property owner's permission, public liability insurance, permits and planning approvals.

2

Lodge application

3

Assessment by council

All valid applications will be reviewed and scored by an assessment panel. Successful applicants will be determined by the quality of their responses to the Assessment Criteria.



4

Applicant is advised of decision

5

If successful, signing of funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to sign a formal funding agreement with council detailing the funding amount, conditions of funding, timeframes, and project reporting requirements.

6

Release of grant funds to applicant

7

Applicant undertakes improvement works

8

Works are completed within timeframe

9

Applicant submits outcome report

Include:

- + high resolution images showcasing the completed works free from obstruction
- + proof of payment
- + acquittal documentation to council.

Note, the applicant must immediately notify the Economic Development team should any details outlined in the funding agreement change during project delivery.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Economic Development team
business@mackay.qld.gov.au
1300 MACKAY (622 529)

