



An Australian Government Initiative



NORTHERN RIVERS

Request for Quote (RFQ)

Northern Rivers Enabling Critical Infrastructure Prioritisation Study

Date: 26 May 2026

Closing Date for Submission: Close of Business **30 June 2026**

Background

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Rivers is seeking suitably qualified consultants to undertake a comprehensive Northern Rivers Enabling Critical Infrastructure Prioritisation Study.

The Northern Rivers region continues to experience significant population growth, housing demand, workforce pressures, and increasing pressure on essential services and infrastructure networks. These challenges are impacting the region's ability to support future residential development, economic growth, investment attraction, and long term regional sustainability.

A lack of enabling infrastructure continues to constrain housing supply, industrial land activation, employment opportunities, and broader regional productivity outcomes across many parts of the region.

This study will identify, assess, and prioritise the enabling critical infrastructure required to unlock future residential, commercial, industrial, and employment growth opportunities across the Northern Rivers region. The project will support regional advocacy, infrastructure investment attraction, strategic planning, and future funding applications to State and Federal Governments.

The study will also provide an evidence base to support coordinated regional planning by identifying infrastructure barriers impacting housing availability, liveability, transport connectivity, and service delivery.

The project will be undertaken in consultation with the following Northern Rivers councils:

- Ballina Shire Council
- Byron Shire Council
- Clarence Valley Council
- Kyogle Council
- Lismore City Council
- Richmond Valley Council
- Tweed Shire Council

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to:

1. Identify Enabling Critical Infrastructure Priorities

Identify the infrastructure required to unlock residential, commercial, industrial, and employment land opportunities across the Northern Rivers region.

2. Support Housing Supply and Liveability

Assess infrastructure barriers limiting housing development, community growth, and regional liveability outcomes.

3. Strengthen Regional Economic Development

Support investment attraction, business growth, employment generation, and regional productivity outcomes through improved infrastructure planning and prioritisation.

4. Inform Regional Advocacy and Funding Priorities

Develop a robust evidence base to support coordinated regional advocacy and future infrastructure funding applications to State and Federal Governments.

5. Support Strategic and Integrated Regional Planning

Provide a prioritisation framework that supports collaboration between councils, government agencies, and regional stakeholders to deliver long term infrastructure outcomes.

Scope of Work

The successful consultant will be required to undertake the following activities:

Regional Infrastructure Identification

Identify enabling infrastructure required across the Northern Rivers region to facilitate:

- Residential development
- Affordable housing opportunities
- Commercial and industrial development
- Employment lands activation
- Strategic economic growth opportunities
- Improved regional connectivity and service delivery

Infrastructure categories may include, but are not limited to:

- Water and sewer infrastructure
- Roads and transport infrastructure
- Flood mitigation infrastructure
- Energy infrastructure
- Telecommunications and digital connectivity
- Community infrastructure
- Infrastructure supporting regional growth and service delivery

Stakeholder Engagement

Undertake consultation and collaboration with:

- RDA Northern Rivers
- Northern Rivers councils
- Relevant State Government agencies
- Infrastructure providers
- Industry stakeholders
- Regional organisations and key partners where required

Consultation should ensure alignment with regional growth priorities, housing objectives, and infrastructure investment opportunities.

Project Prioritisation Framework

Develop a regional infrastructure prioritisation framework for identified projects, including assessment against:

- Regional significance
- Strategic importance
- Readiness and deliverability
- Economic development outcomes
- Housing and population growth impacts
- Employment generation potential
- Community and liveability benefits
- Alignment with government priorities
- Resilience and long-term sustainability

Quantity Surveying and Cost Estimation

Provide high level quantity surveying and indicative cost estimates for identified infrastructure projects, including:

- Estimated delivery costs
- Staging opportunities
- Potential funding pathways
- Investment attraction opportunities
- Infrastructure delivery considerations

Benefits and Economic Impact Assessment

Assess and document the anticipated benefits associated with identified infrastructure projects, including:

- Regional economic growth outcomes
- Productivity and investment benefits
- Housing supply impacts
- Employment generation
- Community wellbeing and liveability improvements
- Disaster resilience and service delivery benefits

Final Reporting and Advocacy Document

Produce a high quality, professionally designed report suitable for:

- Regional advocacy
- Infrastructure investment attraction
- Government engagement and lobbying
- Funding submissions and grant applications
- Strategic planning and policy development

The final report should include:

- Strategic analysis
- Infrastructure mapping
- Prioritisation tables
- Economic impact summaries
- Visual graphics and infographics
- Key recommendations and implementation considerations

Presentations

Present findings and recommendations to:

- Northern Rivers General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC)
- Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO)
- RDA Northern Rivers Board
- Other stakeholders as required

Deliverables

The successful consultant will provide:

- Project inception meeting
- Stakeholder engagement plan
- Regional infrastructure assessment and analysis
- Draft infrastructure prioritisation report
- Final professionally designed report
- Executive summary document
- Prioritisation framework and project pipeline
- Presentation materials for RDA Northern Rivers, GMAC, and NRJO
- Final presentation of findings and recommendations

Consultant Requirements

Consultants should demonstrate experience in:

- Regional infrastructure planning
- Economic impact assessment
- Strategic land use planning
- Infrastructure prioritisation
- Quantity surveying and infrastructure costing
- Government engagement and advisory services
- Housing and regional development analysis
- Production of high quality strategic reports

Experience working with local government, regional organisations, and multi-stakeholder infrastructure projects will be highly regarded.

Submission Requirements

Submissions should include:

- Company profile and relevant experience
- Proposed methodology and project approach
- Project team and key personnel
- Examples of similar projects
- Proposed project timeline
- Stakeholder engagement approach
- Detailed fee proposal inclusive of all costs
- References

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be assessed against:

1. Demonstrated experience and capability in regional infrastructure and strategic planning projects.
2. Understanding of regional infrastructure challenges and growth opportunities within the Northern Rivers.
3. Quality and practicality of the proposed methodology and project approach.
4. Relevant expertise in infrastructure prioritisation, economic analysis, and stakeholder engagement.
5. Value for money.
6. Capacity to deliver within agreed project timeframes.

Submission Details

Quotes must be submitted electronically to:

Anthony Schreenan
Director of Regional Development
Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers

Email: director@rdanorthernrivers.org.au

Closing Date: 30 June 2026

Closing Time: 5:00PM

Late submissions may not be considered.

Enquiries

All enquiries regarding this RFQ should be directed to:

Anthony Schreenan

Director of Regional Development

Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers

Phone: +61 407 724 110

Email: director@rdanorthernrivers.org.au

RDA Northern Rivers reserves the right not to progress with any or all submissions received.