



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**

Future Made in Australia Community Benefit Principles

Draft Public Guidance – Consultation Cover Note

December 2025

Our purpose is to help the government build a better future for all Australians through enabling a productive, resilient and sustainable economy, enriched by science and technology.

This paper should be read in conjunction with Community Benefit Principles Public Guidance.

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The purpose of this publication is to guide the consultation of the Future Made in Australia Community Benefit Principles.

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Introduction

In the 2024–25 Budget, the Australian Government announced that it would invest in a Future Made in Australia agenda to foster new and existing industries, maximise the economic and industrial benefits of the move to net zero, and secure Australia's place in a changing global environment. The Future Made in Australia agenda builds on the potential of Australia's abundant natural assets, fair and competitive markets and commitment to open trade and international investment.

As part of this agenda, the government's *Future Made in Australia Act 2024* (FMA Act) establishes the Community Benefit Principles. The principles are intended to ensure that the benefits of significant public investment flow to local workers, industries and communities.

The Community Benefit Principles recognise that investment should support better outcomes for people, the places they live in, the services they rely on, and the regional industries and economies that are core to Australia's prosperity.

Four objectives will guide our approach to implementing the Community Benefit Principles. The objectives are that the principles should be:

1. proportionate to the size and nature of the Future Made in Australia support provided
2. robust but flexible, allowing communities and industry to work together to deliver the best outcomes for each individual project
3. transparent, to support public trust and ensure that public investments are helping to achieve desired community benefits
4. imposed in a way that is fair and balanced to ensure that communities benefit from investments, but not at such a cost to applicants that they undermine the primary purposes of the Future Made in Australia agenda.

This consultation

The Future Made in Australia Community Benefit Principles public guidance outlines our proposed approach to implementing the principles.

This consultation is your opportunity to help us understand the challenges and opportunities associated with ensuring that funding from Future Made in Australia projects flows to communities in ways that benefit local workers, communities and businesses.

This consultation partially overlaps with the consultation led by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) on the Secure Australian Jobs Code. For more information, please refer to DEWR's consultation website:

<https://consultations.dewr.gov.au/>

We want to hear your views on how the Community Benefit Principles can be applied in practice, so we can make sure the policy framework is practical and effective.

We welcome feedback from everyone, including community groups, governments, regulators, and project proponents to help shape the implementation of the Community Benefit Principles.

As part of this consultation, the Treasury is seeking stakeholder feedback on the application of the Community Benefit Principles to the production tax incentives.

Written submissions

Consultation questions are included in this note. Read the public guidance for more information on our proposed implementation of the principles. You can answer some or all of the questions, or comment on issues more broadly.

While you can lodge a submission by post, we prefer to receive electronic submissions via uploading your response to the Consultation Hub. Please submit electronic responses in a Word (.docx) or .rtf format.

To get in touch with the team or to request a postal submission, please email CBPconsultation@industry.gov.au.

Community Benefit Principles consultation questions

- 1. Please tell us about you or your organisation, and your interest in the Community Benefit Principles.**

Future Made in Australia support

These questions relate to the implementation of the Community Benefit Principles via programs defined in the FMA Act as Future Made in Australia supports and additional programs the government may prescribe in future.

Minimum requirements and threshold requirements

The Future Made in Australia support Rule will set out requirements for decision-makers to consistently and transparently apply the Community Benefit Principles when delivering Future Made in Australia support.

All proponents will be required to meet minimum Community Benefit Principles requirements. Proponents seeking Future Made in Australia support above the threshold amount will also have to:

- meet threshold requirements
- develop, publicly disclose, maintain, and periodically report on a Future Made in Australia plan.

The threshold amount is part of this consultation.

In limited circumstances, it may be impractical to apply certain requirements to proponents receiving Future Made in Australia support. In such case decision makers will have discretion to adapt requirements so they are achievable.

- 2. What feedback do you have on the proposed minimum requirements in Appendix A of the guidance document?**
- 3. What is an appropriate threshold amount for applying the threshold requirements and Future Made in Australia plans?**
- 4. What feedback do you have on the proposed threshold requirements in Appendix B of the guidance document?**
- 5. Can you suggest additional or alternative minimum and threshold requirements that align with the Community Benefits Principles and would balance the regulatory/administrative burden with delivering benefits to communities?**
- 6. Should proponents be asked to negotiate project-specific additional commitments with decision-makers? Can you suggest appropriate additional commitments?**

- 7. What additional types of support provided by the Commonwealth, a Commonwealth entity or a Commonwealth company should be prescribed as Future Made in Australia support in the Rules?**

Community engagement

Questions in this section are to ensure genuine engagement with communities that are impacted by Community Benefit Principles 3 and 4.

- 8. How else can the Community Benefit Principles encourage recipients of support to invest in regions directly affected by the energy transition?**
- 9. How should the application of Community Benefit Principles ensure that communities, including First Nations communities, First Nations businesses and services, small businesses and local supply chains benefit from Future Made in Australia projects?**
- 10. In what other ways could the application of Community Benefit Principles support progress towards Closing the Gap targets?**
- 11. How can the government better support Traditional Owners representative bodies to engage effectively with project proponents?**
- 12. How can the application of Community Benefit Principles help to ensure that project proponents engage genuinely with impacted communities to ensure the concerns and opportunities are understood and benefits are shared?**

Overlaps with other obligations

Some Community Benefit Principles requirements may overlap with Commonwealth, state or local government regulations or policy requirements that proponents are already required to meet. In this instance, a proponent can provide existing documentation for a decision-maker to take into consideration.

- 13. Do you think the proposed approach in section 3.3 of the public guidance relating to existing obligations is sufficient?**
- 14. Are there any minimum requirements that excessively overlap with existing obligations? What would you propose instead?**
- 15. Are there any threshold requirements that excessively overlap with existing obligations? What would you propose instead?**

Future Made in Australia plans

Proponents applying for Future Made in Australia support over the threshold amount will need to have a Future Made in Australia plan which outlines commitments against each of the 6 Community Benefit Principles as well as the activities to deliver on those commitments. Further information on Future Made in Australia plans is at Section 3.5 of the guidance.

- 16. Is the proposed content (at Appendix C of the public guidance) for Future Made in Australia plans sufficient to provide transparency, support public trust and**

demonstrate the benefits the project will provide to communities? If not, what other content should they include?

- 17. Do you foresee any issues with publishing Future Made in Australia plans? How should confidentiality concerns (for example, commercial-in-confidence information) be managed?**
- 18. Are there any special circumstances which might require changes to the content provided in Future Made in Australia plans?**
- 19. Should any proponents (receiving Future Made in Australia support) be exempt from all or part of the requirement to have a Future Made in Australia plan? If so, in what circumstances would exemptions be appropriate?**

Reporting, monitoring and compliance

Section 3.4 of the public guidance document outlines how commitments aligned with the Community Benefit Principles will be monitored. The reporting requirements imposed on proponents will be established through funding agreements. Where non-compliance with commitments is significant and sustained, decision-makers and support entities will have discretion to leverage existing enforcement mechanisms established through funding agreements or contracts where appropriate.

- 20. Do you support the approach in the Community Benefit Principles public guidance of demonstrating compliance with the minimum requirements? If not, what would you replace this approach with? What is an appropriate frequency and level of detail for proponents to report against?**
- 21. Do existing dispute-resolution avenues provide sufficient scope for interested parties to report non-compliance? If not, are other mechanisms required? How should they function?**

Community Benefit Principles and Production Tax Incentives

Part 4 of the public guidance document provides detail on the application of the Community Benefit Principles to the Future Made in Australia production tax incentives. Companies seeking to obtain the full amount of these tax incentives will be required to publish a report each year about how the project will provide benefits to the community.

The public guidance document sets out the proposed application of the Community Benefit Principles to the production tax incentives. However, the specific requirements, as they apply to these incentives, will be detailed by rules set by the Minister under the *Future Made in Australia (Production Tax Credits and Other Measures) Act 2025*.

Feedback from this consultation will inform how the Community Benefit Principles apply to the production tax incentives.

- 22. Are the community programs typically associated with company activities reflected in the request for proposed policies, targets, plans? Is there other**

information relevant to critical mineral or hydrogen projects that you would like to see included in these Reports?

23. Do the reporting and publication requirements achieve a reasonable balance between industry obligations and community expectations? If not, what changes could be considered?
24. Do you think the percentage reductions for non-compliance strike the right balance between incentivising compliance and providing certainty for investors to support investment decisions? If not, what would you suggest?
25. What are your views on meeting the criteria consistent with a satisfactory Statement of Tax Record?
26. What are your views on adopting the Voluntary Tax Transparency Code?
27. What are your views on having the Production Tax Incentive Community Benefit Report reviewed by a Registered Company Auditor?
28. If you are a Registered Company Auditor, what are your views on reviewing the Report?