

# Dantia Innovation Grant Guidelines & Application Form 2025/26





## Dantia Innovation Grant Guidelines – 2025/26

### Program Overview

The Dantia Innovation Grant helps local startups and entrepreneurs bring their innovative ideas to life. We will provide this grant funding for early-stage venture, providing the support and connections within our network to support growth. Our focus is on aligning with existing and emerging growth areas/ sectors that will keep Lake Macquarie's economy strong and future ready.

### Objectives

1. **Support Local Innovation and Entrepreneurship** – Offer financial and non-financial help to startups creating new products, services, or technologies.
2. **Accelerate Commercialisation and Growth** – Enable ventures to test, improve, and scale their ideas into successful, sustainable businesses.
3. **Strengthen Economic Resilience** – Prioritise startups in key growth areas like Education & Research, Health & Wellbeing, Knowledge Industries & Professional Services, Mining & Energy Clean Tech, Digital Services, Advanced Manufacturing.

<https://investlakemac.com.au/>

### Key Deliverables

1. **Grant Program Guidelines and Assessment Framework** – Clear criteria and transparent processes for selecting recipient.
2. **Successful Grant Round Implementation** – One competitive round, from promotion to funding.
3. **Startup Support Services Package** – Mentoring, co-working access, workshops (if available), and business advice (Business Connect if available).
4. **Monitoring and Impact Reporting** – Summary of startup progress, job creation, and innovation outcomes.
5. **Stakeholder and Ecosystem Engagement** – Assist with connecting to collaborative and network with innovation hubs, universities, investors, and government, within our networks.



## Milestones

Milestone	Activities	Timeline
<b>Program Design &amp; Setup</b>	Finalise guidelines, confirm funding, engage local ecosystem	Sep–Oct 2025
<b>Program Launch &amp; Promotion</b>	Open applications, provide support	Nov–Dec 2025
<b>Application Assessment &amp; Allocation</b>	Evaluate applications, select recipients, distribute funds	Dec–Jan 2026
<b>Support Services &amp; Monitoring</b>	Deliver mentoring, co-working, capability building, track progress	Feb–May 2026
<b>Evaluation &amp; Reporting</b>	Collect data, publish evaluation, final acquittal report	Jun 2026

## Funding

Grant amount will be \$30k and can be used for product development, market validation, capability building, and business growth.

## Eligibility

- My business (entity with an ABN) is based in or operates in Lake Macquarie (registered office, head office, or main premises)
- Early-stage startup or entrepreneur
- My business operates in high value industries or supports emerging sectors (e.g., Education & Research, Health & Wellbeing, Knowledge Industries & Professional Services, Mining & Energy Clean Tech, Digital Services, Advanced Manufacturing)  
<https://investlakemac.com.au/>
- Able to commence the project immediately upon funding

## Assessment

Applications will be judged on innovation, feasibility, potential economic impact, alignment with priority sectors, and capability of the team.

## Reporting

Successful recipient must provide a mid-project update and a final acquittal report in June 2026.



**Dantia Innovation Grant – Application Form 2025/26**

**Section 1 – Applicant Details**

**1.1 Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.2 Trading Name (if different):** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.3 ABN/ACN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.4 Business Structure:**  Sole Trader  Partnership  Company  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.5 Primary Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.6 Position/Role:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.7 Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.8 Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.9 Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.10 Website/Social Media:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2 – Eligibility Check (*all must be ticked to proceed*)**

- My business (entity with an ABN) is based in or operates in Lake Macquarie (registered office, head office, or main premises)
- My business is an early-stage startup or entrepreneurial venture
- My business operates in high value industries or supports emerging sectors (e.g., Education & Research, Health & Wellbeing, Knowledge Industries & Professional Services, Mining & Energy Clean Tech, Digital Services, Advanced Manufacturing) <https://investlakemac.com.au/>
- I can start the project immediately upon receiving funding



**Section 3 – Project Overview**

**3.1 Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3.2 Short Summary (50-150 words):**

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**3.3 Detailed Project Description (max 300-1000 words):**

- What problems are you solving?
  
- What is your innovation?
  
- How will it work in practice?

**Section 4 – Objectives & Impact**

**4.1 How does your project align with the (Dantia) Grant Objectives? (tick and explain)**

- Support local innovation and entrepreneurship
- Accelerate commercialisation and growth
- Strengthen economic resilience through sector alignment

**Your explanation:**



**4.2 What is the expected economic impact in Lake Macquarie?**

(e.g., job creation, new skills, export potential)

**Section 5 – Budget & Funding**

**5.1 Total Project Cost:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**5.2 Grant Amount:** \$ 30k

**5.3 Key Budget Breakdown (list key items and costs if readily available):**

**Item/Activity Cost (\$)**

**Section 6 – Capability & Delivery**

**6.1 Who is on your team and what expertise do they bring?**

**6.2 Key Milestones & Timeframe:**

**Milestone Completion Date**

**Section 7 – Additional Support**

If successful, which support services if available would be most valuable?

- Mentoring
- Capability workshops
- Business advisory
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 8 – Declaration**

I declare that the information provided is true and correct, and I understand that if successful, I will be required to provide progress, and final acquittal reports as per the guidelines.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Application to:** [wayne@dantia.com.au](mailto:wayne@dantia.com.au) **Titled:** Grant Application 2025