

# Strategic Problem Identification Tool

## Grantus

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Let's explore whether or not Grantus can assist you.

This guide is a reference point for identifying and framing the real-world problems your initiative is seeking to address. It outlines common challenge areas that often underpin effective projects, policy reforms, and investment proposals.

Use this tool to test and refine your problem logic, supporting stronger alignment with strategic priorities, clearer articulation of need, and a more compelling case for action.

Select one or more problem themes from the table to frame your initiative and strengthen the rationale for investment or reform.

Description (Problem Statement)	Who is Affected	Evidence Source(s)	Notes
<b>Asset Renewal &amp; Infrastructure Gaps</b>			
Ageing, unsafe, or inadequate infrastructure unable to meet current or future needs.	Community users, local industry, councils	Audit reports, infrastructure plans, Asset Mgmt plans	Aligns with HVHR and business case standards.
<b>Digital Connectivity &amp; Data Deficits</b>			
Poor digital infrastructure and lack of data insight limiting service delivery, innovation, or economic participation.	Rural communities, SMEs, service providers	ABS data, RDA reports, digital strategy papers	Common in regional areas; key for grant cases.
<b>Workforce Capacity &amp; Skills Shortages</b>			
Insufficient workforce skills to meet future demands (e.g., in health, infrastructure, digital sectors).	Workers, youth, employers, educators	TAFE, VET data, Jobs Victoria, Skills Forecast reports	Especially important for regional funding.
<b>Climate Resilience &amp; Environmental Risk</b>			
Increasing vulnerability to climate risks (flood, fire, drought), reducing service reliability, liveability, and economic productivity.	Entire community, landholders, ecosystems	BOM, CSIRO, local climate risk assessments	Cross-cuts environment, health, liveability.
<b>Equity &amp; Access Gaps</b>			
Disadvantaged communities unable to access essential services (health, education, housing, water, digital).	Low-income households, First Nations, rural	ABS, Closing the Gap, local council plans	Aligns with social procurement priorities.
<b>Community Wellbeing &amp; Social Isolation</b>			
Poor health outcomes, loneliness, mental health challenges, and disengagement from social and economic life.	Seniors, youth, carers, CALD groups	VCOSS, Beyond Blue, Vic Health, LGA community surveys	Strong case for wellbeing-linked investments.

Description (Problem Statement)	Who is Affected	Evidence Source(s)	Notes
<b>Inefficient Governance &amp; Procurement</b>			
Fragmented decision-making, duplication of effort, or poor alignment across jurisdictions or sectors preventing effective delivery.	Councils, government agencies, contractors	Procurement ILG, Gateway reviews, audit reports	Could strengthen governance aspects of bids.
<b>Public Health &amp; Service Gaps</b>			
Gaps in preventive health, aged care, or emergency response capacity, exacerbating health inequalities.	Elderly, regional populations, vulnerable	DHHS data, hospital waitlists, council health plans	May tie into disaster resilience or health funding.
<b>Housing Insecurity &amp; Affordability</b>			
Rising homelessness, lack of affordable rental or ownership options, and housing-related stress.	Low-income renters, youth, families	Homelessness Australia, ABS, housing strategies	Funding interest across state and federal levels.
<b>Economic Participation Barriers</b>			
Structural barriers to local job creation, entrepreneurship, or economic diversification (e.g., supply chain gaps, skills mismatch).	Small businesses, startups, displaced workers	RDA, REMPLAN, ABS, local economic plans	Supports "local jobs first" and regional growth funds.

*"We knew we were a contender for funding and needed help to get the application together. Grantus won us \$400,000 for a feasibility study and then suggested we apply for funding on another project as well. We then won \$3,775,000."*

**Manager Regional Liveability,**  
*Regional Water Corporation*



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## Emerging / Wicked Problem Types

- Trust deficits in technology and data use: Community resistance to digital adoption or data sharing.
- Intergenerational inequity: Long-term underinvestment affecting future generations (e.g., sustainability debt).
- Circular economy blockages: Lack of viable pathways for scaling waste recovery, reuse, or circular economy initiatives.
- Cultural connection & place identity loss: Erosion of cultural heritage or connection to place, especially for First Nations or multicultural communities.
- Digital displacement: Vulnerable groups excluded from digital services due to literacy, affordability, or accessibility issues.

### Need expert support for your project?

If your project requires a more compelling business case, Investment Logic Mapping (ILM) facilitation, or strategic advisory, we can help.

Maximise your project's funding potential and download our free [Strategic Funding Roadmap](#) to get started.

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