

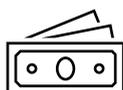


499 projects all across regional NSW, from Wagga Wagga to Walgett and Bourke to Bathurst have been funded under the Fixing Local Roads Program



## 153,000km

NSW local councils are responsible for more than this distance of Regional and Local Roads. This is over 85 per cent of the total NSW road network.



## \$691M

The total amount of funding for the entire program is \$691M from both NSW and Australian Government.

### The Fixing Local Roads Program

The Fixing Local Roads Program is a \$500 million NSW Government Program enabling councils to accelerate upgrades and maintenance on their local road network.

In 2020, the Australian Government committed an additional \$191 million to support economic activity in Regional NSW and accelerate the delivery of the Program. This increased the total funding to \$691 million.

Fixing Local Roads is a grant-based program where councils can apply for funding to repair, patch, maintain and seal priority local council roads improving routes that regional communities use every day, making journeys for locals, farmers and freight safer, more efficient and more reliable. Applications can be made for a 100 per cent contribution from the NSW Government for specific works. Councils are encouraged to co-contribute to any projects; a general rule of thumb is a minimum co-contribution of 25 percent.

### Eligibility

Eligible projects are required to meet a series of criteria set out in the Program Guidelines. Projects must be:

- located on a Local Road managed by Council
- identifiable as a priority or important Local Road for the local government area or region
- deliverable within 24 months of notification from Transport for NSW
- maintenance driven such as repairing, patching, maintaining, or sealing existing roads.

Ineligible projects include:

- building new roads or only widening shoulders
- any project on the State or Regional road network or
- any project on private roads.

95 regional local government bodies are eligible and invited to apply for Round 4 of the Program. See the Eligibility List for more details.

## Applications

An online application form and supporting documents can be obtained from the Fixing Local Roads webpage at [nswroads.work/fixinglocalroads](https://nswroads.work/fixinglocalroads).

Relevant information about criteria, key dates and how to apply can be obtained from the Fixing Local Roads Program Guidelines.

Applications must be submitted online via the SmartyGrants system. <https://transportfornew.smarthygrants.com.au/FLRRound4>.

## Timeframe for works

All works must be completed within 24 months of notification from Transport for NSW to ensure local communities are getting the benefits sooner.

Projects must also be able to commence in the first 12 months from receipt of a signed funding deed.

## Application assessment

The Fixing Local Roads Program adopts a multi-criteria assessment of every application. Projects will be selected for funding based on the ability to deliver against the following objectives:

Promotes regional economic activity.

Enhances regional connectivity and sustainability.

Enables a safer regional road network.

Evidence of on time delivery with agreed milestones in previous rounds.

Each project will be subject to a comparative assessment of both merit and prioritisation attributes to enable selection of projects which meet the program objectives and contain particular attributes which may warrant higher consideration.

## Merit assessment

The application will seek detailed responses from councils to questions which will enable the evaluation panel to make a determination of the following:

- Does the project meet the objectives of the Program?
- Has the application provided measurable justification and/or evidence to demonstrate alignment to the program objectives?
- Are the cost, schedule, risk and assumptions of the project delivery well documented?
- Have projects from previous rounds been delivered within agreed milestones (except where there are exceptional

circumstances)?

- Are there special considerations (e.g. drought hardship, connecting Indigenous communities)?
- Is there a co-contribution, other funding source to optimise community outcomes?

Some documentation may be required in support of the applications, including photographic evidence, detailed project development information and asset management plans.

Merit-based questions will be assessed on a score of 1 (poor) to 3 (very good) based on the information provided in the application form. The scores will be combined into a single multi-criteria score based on a weighting for each criterion.

Projects must be able to commence in the first 12 months from receipt of a signed funding deed.

All works must be completed within two years of receiving funding to ensure local communities are getting the benefits sooner.

The evaluation criteria and corresponding weighting are outlined on Page 3.

## Prioritisation assessment

To support Transport for NSW in being able to distinguish and prioritise the applications, the application form includes a number of questions to enable a better understanding of which projects may warrant higher consideration.

Application questions require applicants to provide specific information and/or select from a range of attributes specific to the road and/or the project.

Attributes informing prioritisation include:

- being able to commence in the first 12 months from receipt of signed funding deed
- job creation and local investment
- road condition and function
- Road Infrastructure Risk Rating
- frequency of closures due to weather/heavy haulage damage.

Responses to prioritisation questions will generate a score between 1-3 and will contribute to the overall evaluation score.

## Previous submissions

Councils are invited to resubmit applications for projects which were not approved for Rounds 1-3 funding.

Due to the changed application requirements, it is recommended councils resubmit through the SmartyGrants system to provide the evaluation team with the full application requirements to progress through the assessment process.

Program Outcomes	Program Objectives	Criteria Weighting	Evaluation Criteria
Outcome 1: The program promotes regional economic activity	Promotes regional development in rural communities	15%	The project is able to commence in the first 12 months from receipt of signed funding deed and deliverable within 24 months of notification from TfNSW. The project will generate local jobs for regional and rural communities and supports community connections which further enable job generation and economic growth, e.g. freight, tourism, industry.
	Supports families in rural and remote areas	15%	The project enables improved access to one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health care</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• access to social and community benefits</li> </ul>
Outcome 2: The program enhances regional connectivity and sustainability	Improves the reliability of the local road network	15%	The project will significantly improve the current local road condition
	Assists councils to sustainably manage their assets	10%	The project forms part of an existing strategic asset management strategy and will directly minimise ongoing reactive maintenance costs. The project aims to address damage caused by State Forests, mining.
	Improves the resilience of the local road network	15%	The project will improve the productivity of the local road network by reducing frequency of road closures, speed restrictions building resilience to natural disasters / weather events / heavy vehicle damage.
Outcome 3: The program enables a safer regional road network	Improves local road safety	15%	The project / proposed solution contributes to a safer road network
Reasonableness & Deliverability	Credibility and integrity of the project application	5%	Application has sufficient detail to support the credibility and integrity of the project costs, schedule, risks and assumptions.
Special Considerations	Hardship Connects indigenous communities	5%	Yes / No
Co-contribution / other funding source	=/> Contribution from Council or other party	5%	The amount of co-contribution Council or a party other than Council make to the project.

## Funding limits

There is no limit to the number or total value of project applications which can be submitted to the Fixing Local Roads Program each round. Councils may apply for up to 100 percent of the project value.

There is a maximum funding limit of \$3 million of State contribution per project which can be granted to a council for each round of the Program. And there is a maximum \$1 million funding limit for group applications where economies of scale can be achieved by bundling similar projects.

## Reporting and payments

Councils will be required to report on the planning, progress and completion of projects and provide supporting information.

We will provide monthly reporting requirements to successful councils following the evaluation and assessment process.

Grant funding will be milestone based with an initial payment of 20 per cent upon receipt of a signed Funding Deed, 50 per cent upon

commencement of construction, 20 per cent upon open to traffic and the remaining balance of project costs, up to 10 per cent of the grant fund, upon submission of a Project Completion Report and the satisfactory completion of the project.

TfNSW will be conducting audits of some projects to assess cost and schedule performance.

## Timing of notifications

Councils will have six weeks from receiving a notification letter to enter into the funding agreement.

We encourage councils to consider making arrangements to enable approvals outside of regular council meeting dates if required.

## Contact details

Questions about Fixing Local Roads including eligibility and the application process can be emailed to [fixinglocalroads@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fixinglocalroads@transport.nsw.gov.au)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if the project has already commenced?

Councils cannot nominate projects which have already commenced. Commenced projects are ineligible for consideration. Funding cannot be retrospectively applied.

### Can councils apply for multiple projects?

There is no limit to the number or total value of project applications which can be submitted to the Fixing Local Roads Program each round. Councils may apply for up to 100 percent of the project value, but co-contributions from Council are strongly encouraged and will be considered relevant to Council's funding position.

Councils are recommended to consider the program objectives and Council's strategic and/or operational plans in selecting which projects are most suitable for funding by the Fixing Local Roads Program. There may be other grant programs which are more suitable for some projects.

There is a maximum funding limit of \$3 million of State contribution which can be granted to a council per project for each round of the Program, irrespective of the outcome of the evaluation process. And there is a maximum \$1 million funding limit for group applications where economies of scale can be achieved by bundling similar projects.

### If I submit multiple project applications, can I submit them in order of priority?

Every project and application will be assessed against the merit and prioritisation criteria separately. The outcome of the combined assessment will enable Transport for NSW to prioritise projects to be funded.

Projects which best meet the program objectives and prioritisation assessment will be best positioned for program funding.

As part of the application form, Council is required to include what priority the road is to their works plan. Council prioritisation will be considered through the assessment process where projects have similar scores.

### Can I group projects in one application?

Councils are recommended to consider the program objectives and application questions to determine the best projects to submit. Every project and application will be assessed against the merit and prioritisation criteria separately. The outcome of the combined assessment will enable Transport for NSW to prioritise projects to be funded.

Projects which best meet the program objectives and prioritisation assessment will be best positioned for program funding. There is a maximum funding limit of \$3 million of State contribution per application (for an individual road project) which can be granted to a council for each round of the Program.

Where projects have the same/similar scope and can be completed together to achieve economies of scale, they can be submitted in one application. There is a maximum \$1 million funding limit for group

applications where economies of scale can be achieved by bundling similar projects.

### How do I use SmartyGrants?

SmartyGrants is a secure, online portal which provides a platform for submission and assessment of project applications. It is used by many government agencies in the management of grant funds.

Councils will need to create a SmartyGrants login to access and lodge submissions. If Council already has an account and needs login details updated, please email [fixinglocalroads@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fixinglocalroads@transport.nsw.gov.au)



### Will there be future rounds of Fixing Local Roads?

Through Rounds 1 to 3 of Fixing Local Roads, over \$545 million has already been allocated to 499 projects across the state. Once applications for Round 4 have closed and been assessed, a prioritised list of eligible projects will be developed which will exhaust remaining Program funds.

### Is there a minimum co-contribution?

Councils which have a co-contribution of equal to, or greater than 25% will be eligible to receive corresponding points during the merit assessment.

Councils who are experiencing hardship can outline ineligibility in meeting this evaluation criteria. There is no minimum co-contribution and councils may apply for up to 100% of the total project cost.

Co-contribution can also be made by third parties, including those from other State or Federal grant programs and private industry.

### Why do I need to provide a contingency value?

Councils must ensure there is sufficient funding to complete the project scope. Councils must assess project risk to calculate the required contingency to deliver the project.

The contingency value must be included in the Total Project Estimate. Councils must provide the assumptions used to formulate the project contingency in the application.

Councils may not apply for additional funding during, or at the completion, of the project.

### **What happens if the total project costs less than the funding that has been granted?**

Transport for NSW will release 20 per cent of the total grant upon execution of the funding agreement, 50 per cent will be released upon construction commencement and 20 per cent at open to traffic. Upon completion of the project, councils will be required to submit a Project Completion Report detailing the total project costs. TfNSW will assess performance against the initial cost estimates and project milestones.

Councils will be required to provide actual costs of the project.

Transport for NSW will release the remaining balance of project costs up to 10 per cent of the grant value.

Any project savings will be deducted from the balance of final payment to be redistributed back into the Program.

### **What if Council has applied for funding under alternate grant programs?**

In these instances councils should apply for the full funding amount and note that co-funding has been applied for. If successful in the alternate program, councils should notify Transport for NSW of the amount of co-funding received. Notifications relating to the Program can be made through the relevant Transport for NSW Local Government Manager.

In some cases, grant funding from another program may be considered as part of a co-contribution if there is new scope proposed for the same project location. Councils may not receive funding from two separate sources for the same scope in one project.

### **How much detail do I need to provide in the application?**

The assessment panel can only score the applications based on the information provided. The responses must include as much information as possible to enable the panel to assess the project against the evaluation criteria.

Responses must include specific details about the project, e.g. the length of the road where improvements will be made. Each response must directly answer the question.

Ensure your answers are consistent, and correspond with related sections, for example the number of generated jobs, number of hours work generated by the project, the benefit to the region and community when the project is delivered.

Councils are encouraged to be as accurate as possible in their cost estimates. TfNSW will be undertaking audits of projects to assess performance against the cost and schedule. Performance will also be assessed upon submission of the Project Completion Report which will require the both the initial estimates and actual costs expended on the project.

### **How do I answer questions about traffic volumes?**

Traffic volumes are addressed in two sections, to understand the anticipated increase in traffic volumes due to the project, and as part of the Infrastructure Risk Rating calculation.

The appropriate response to the Current Traffic Volumes is either; actual total numbers for the most recent year of available data or where data is not available, the annual average can be calculated by daily traffic volumes divided by 365.

The appropriate response to the Infrastructure Information section is the Average Annual Daily Traffic Average (vehicles per day) as identified in the Infrastructure Risk Rating Manual for Australian Roads (AP-R587A-19,) available on the Austroads website.

### **What do I do if there are multiple projects on the same road?**

There is no limit to the number of applications a council can submit. Council should demonstrate how these projects meet the program objectives, and if they should be applied for separately. Council should also clearly indicate road priority in their application.

### **Does the \$3 million funding limit apply to forestry roads?**

Yes, standard funding limits as outlined in the 2022 Fixing Local Roads Program Guidelines and this Fact Sheet apply to forestry roads.

### **Can Fixing Local Roads funding be used in conjunction with other State funding?**

Yes. As outlined in the 2022 Fixing Local Roads Program Guidelines councils are strongly encouraged to source additional investment to support their applications and enhance their local road maintenance projects.

This might include, for example, working with mining and forestry industries to gain co-contributions or applying for Australian Government funding. Councils are also encouraged to leverage funding from other NSW Government programs to maximise community benefits from the project.



**More information on the Fixing Local Roads Program is available online at [nswroads.work/fixinglocalroads](https://nswroads.work/fixinglocalroads) or via email at [fixinglocalroads@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fixinglocalroads@transport.nsw.gov.au).**