



## About the Program

### 1. What is the NSW Boating Access Dredging Program

The NSW Boating Access Dredging Program provides grant funding to councils to deliver dredging projects to ensure safe navigation of channels and entrances, particularly in regional waterways. This will ensure better access to local waterways for recreational and commercial boaters and other users. This creates flow-on benefits for tourism, marine based business and local economies. The Program will support the NSW Maritime Infrastructure Plan 2019 - 2024 (MIP) which identifies “Waterway access and Navigation”, including the dredging of channels, rivers and river mouths, as one of the main maritime infrastructure needs.

Total funding under the Program is limited to \$2 million for all projects across NSW.

### 2. Who can apply for funding under the Program and what are the funding contribution requirements?

Councils can apply and are expected to make a financial contribution of at least 25 per cent of project costs and be responsible for managing and delivering their projects. The Boating Access Dredging Program will fund up to 75 per cent of the total project cost.

In limited circumstances, exceptions to this funding contribution ratio will be considered if a project scores highly on other assessment criteria and/or the applicant is able to clearly demonstrate why it cannot make the minimum financial contribution.

## Application process

### 3. What support is available to help develop a funding proposal?

In addition to the Program Guidelines document, application form and this Questions and Answers document which can be found at

<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/projects/nsw-boating-access-dredging-program/index.html>. The Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) can also provide assistance during the application phase. The MIDO can be contacted at [mido@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mido@transport.nsw.gov.au).

### 4. When will I be able to submit a formal application for funding?

The formal application process will commence on 5 March 2021 and will close eight weeks later on 30 April.

### 5. What happens if I submit an application after the deadline?

Should an application be received after the deadline, TfNSW may or may not consider the proposal at its absolute discretion. Applicants applying after the deadline should contact the MIDO to discuss their individual circumstances.

### 6. How do I submit a formal application for funding?

Applicants should download the application form from

<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/projects/nsw-boating-access-dredging-program/index.html>

This form, along with any supporting documentation, should be emailed to [mido@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mido@transport.nsw.gov.au) by **5pm 30 April 2021** to be formally considered for funding under the Program.

### 7. What details will be required in the formal application?

Applicants are encouraged to provide as much relevant information as possible about the project and the justification for the funding being requested. Applicants will also need to identify how funds will be allocated and how their proposal represents value for money.

Information required during the formal application stage is specified on the application form and includes:

- **Project scope and description** including key deliverables.

- **Justification for the project** including qualitative and/or quantitative (actual/estimated) information on current usage or customer satisfaction, and how this is expected to be impacted by the project
  - **Details on local stakeholder engagement and level of support for the project** including recreational boaters, community groups and businesses
  - **Estimated total project cost, the level of grant funding being sought** and how the remaining project costs are to be funded
  - **Details on the management and delivery of the project** including roles, responsibilities, key milestones and timescales
  - **Alignment with local strategic documents and plans** such as Coastal Management Programs
  - **Alignment with key NSW Government plans, including key investment locations** in the Maritime Infrastructure Plan if relevant.
- 8. What are the approval requirements for dredging projects funded under the program**

All successful projects will be required to obtain the necessary approvals to undertake dredging works.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain longer term licences to undertake dredging at a site beyond the works being funded under the program. While recognising that this will require additional work at the REF stage, this will mean further licences will not be required for future dredging works at the site.

Obtaining longer term licences for dredging works has been identified as an option to streamline the approval process for dredging works over the long term. In recognition of the additional upfront work this will require at the REF stage, MIDO assistance is available to provide guidance on preparing relevant documents.

**9. Can I apply for funding for more than one project?**

Yes. A separate formal application form should be submitted for each project.

**10. Who can I contact to discuss my application?**

If you have any questions that are not addressed in this document or the guidelines, or you would like to discuss your project, please contact [mido@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mido@transport.nsw.gov.au).

### **11. How will applications be assessed/prioritised?**

An assessment panel will be convened and will include two or more representatives from TfNSW (the Centre for Maritime Safety and the MIDO).

The panel will assess each application against each of the assessment criteria.

The panel may ask for further clarification from the applicant, seek advice from other parties such as NSW Maritime operational staff and other agencies, commission independent studies or undertake site inspections where more information is required.

Staff involved in providing feedback on an application will not formally assess the application, although, they may provide advice to the Panel as required.

## **Funding**

### **12. Is there a cap on how much funding each application can request?**

TfNSW Funding contributions will be capped at \$500,000 per project. Total funding under the Program is limited to \$2 million for all projects across NSW.

### **13. Can projects be funded by the Boating Access Dredging Program and also by other funding sources?**

Delivery partner contributions to the total project cost can include funding from other sources including:

- Government agencies, sponsorships and donations; and
- In-kind contributions such as materials, labour and use of machinery.

These other sources of funding must be confirmed and substantiated. Internal administration and project management costs (staff salaries) are not considered labour and should not be included as part of the applicant's funding contribution.

## **Successful projects and next steps**

### **14. When will successful projects be announced?**

It is anticipated successful projects will be announced in June 2021 following the assessment of application forms and approval of recommended projects. Unsuccessful applicants will receive written confirmation that their application was not successful on this occasion.

**15. What happens next if a project is successful?**

The allocation of funding to successful projects will be managed through a Letter of Offer and Conditions of Grant documents – involving a two-party agreement between TfNSW and the delivery partner.

The Letter of Offer and Conditions of Grant documents outline the scope of works, conditions, project milestones as well as funding arrangements, specifying the amount of grant funding and the co-funding provided by the delivery partner.

Following execution of the allocation of funding documents, the delivery partner then proceeds with procurement, with the MIDO monitoring delivery and administering grant funding payments on completion of agreed milestones. Successful applicants (delivery partners) will be able to request up to 25 per cent of the grant funding value to be available on execution of the Conditions of Grant document, to assist with early commencement of the project.

**16. What happens if there is an increase or decrease in project cost?**

During delivery, the delivery partner bears all the project cost risks.

If the project delivery cost is lower than the amount allowed for in the Letter of Offer and Conditions of Grant documents, the cost saving will be reflected in a reduction in the Boating Access Dredging grant funding (the co-funding amount will remain unchanged).

If the project delivery cost exceeds the budget allowed for in the Letter of Offer and Conditions of Grant documents, the delivery partner will be required to make up the shortfall. In some cases where there is an unforeseen change in the scope of the project, the delivery partner should contact the MIDO at the earliest opportunity to discuss a variation request.

**17. If successful, what is the timeframe to deliver the dredging projects?**

It is expected that successful applicants will commence projects within six months of execution of the Conditions of Grant document and that projects will need to be delivered within 18 months of execution.

**18. What happens if a successful project cannot be delivered?**

If a project cannot be completed, any grant funding allocated and/or paid to the delivery partner must be returned in full to TfNSW in accordance with the Conditions of Grant document.