

# Fixing Local Roads program

## Fact sheet - Round 2

### What is the Fixing Local Roads program?

The Fixing Local Roads Program is a \$500 million NSW Government program over five years, to assist councils in reducing their local council roads maintenance backlog.

In 2020, the Australian Government committed an additional \$191 million to the Fixing Local Roads program to support economic activity in regional NSW. This increased the total funding for the Fixing Local Roads program to \$691 million.

### How does the program work?

Fixing Local Roads is a grant-based program where councils can apply for funding to repair, patch, maintain and seal priority local council roads. 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 with funds or in-kind contributions.

### What works can be funded?

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. (Note: Regional and Crown roads are not eligible)
- 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.

### What are ineligible projects?

Ineligible projects include:

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

Funding is specific to projects and not transferable.

More information on the Fixing Local Roads program is available online or via email



**The total NSW road network is over 180,000km in length, with approximately 80 per cent classified as Local Roads.**

Local councils are currently responsible for maintaining well over 85 per cent of the total NSW road network (including regional and local roads).



## Who is eligible for this funding?

The 93 councils listed on the Eligibility List are eligible to apply, as well as the Unincorporated Far West and Lord Howe Island.

## How do councils apply for funding?

Information and supporting documents can be obtained from the Fixing Local Roads web page [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fixinglocalroads](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/fixinglocalroads).

Relevant information around 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.

## What is the deadline for completing works?

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

## How will applications be assessed?

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.

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 council 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?
- Are there special considerations e.g. drought hardship, connecting Indigenous Communities?
- Is there a co-contribution, or 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). The scores will be combined into a single multi-criteria score based on a weighting for each criteria.

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

Projects which are able to commence in 20/21 financial year will be prioritised during the assessment period.

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:

- 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.

## Round 1 projects

Councils may choose to resubmit unsuccessful projects from round one if they are able to start projects in the 2020/21 financial year.

Due to the changed application requirements, councils will need to resubmit through the SmartyGrants system to provide the evaluation team with the necessary information to progress through the assessment process.

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| Program Outcomes   | Program Objectives                                    | Criteria Weighting | Evaluation Criteria   |
|--|---|--------------------|---|
| <b>Outcome 1:</b><br>The program promotes regional economic activity               | Promotes regional development in rural communities    | 15%                | The project is shovel ready commencing in FY20/21<br>The project will generate local jobs for regional and rural communities and supports community connections which further enable job generation and economic growth, eg 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>  |
| <b>Outcome 2:</b><br>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<br>The project supports maintenance of roads impacted by harvesting of State Forests.                           |
|  | 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.  |
| <b>Outcome 3:</b><br>The program enables a safer regional road network             | Improves local road safety                            | 15%                | The project / proposed solution contributes to a safer road network   |
| <b>Reasonableness &amp; Deliverability</b>   | 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.   |
| <b>Special Considerations</b>  | Hardship<br>Connects indigenous communities           | 5%                 | Yes / No  |
| <b>Co-contribution / other funding source</b>                                      | 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 of project applications which can be submitted to the Fixing Local Roads program each round. Councils may apply for up to 100 per cent of the project value.

There is a maximum funding limit of \$5 million of state contribution per council per application. Applicants can apply for up to 100 per cent of the value of the project, but co-contributions from council are strongly encouraged and will be considered relevant to council's funding position. A general rule of thumb is a minimum co-contribution of 25 per cent. Non-compliant proposals may be considered.

## Reporting and payments

Councils will be required to report on the planning, progress and completion of projects and provide supporting information. Grant funding will be milestone based with an initial payment of 70 per cent at the start of the project and the remaining balance of project costs, up to 30 per cent of the grant fund, upon submission of a Final Project Report and the satisfactory completion of the project.

More information on the Fixing Local Roads program is available online or via email

## Timing of notifications

Transport for NSW is targeting the release of notifications to successful councils in early 2021 to aid in development of local government budgets.

Councils will have two 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 are encouraged to nominate projects which are priority upgrades which have not yet commenced. Projects which have commenced are ineligible for consideration as funding cannot be retrospectively applied.

### Can councils apply for multiple projects?

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

Each project 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.

### 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.

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

The Fixing Local Roads program will be delivered over 5 years, with more than \$240 million awarded for Round 1.

Future rounds may be announced at a later date.

### Is there a minimum co-contribution?

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

Councils who are experiencing hardship can outline ineligibility in meeting this evaluation criteria.

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

Transport for NSW will release 70 per cent of the total grant upon execution of the funding agreement letters. Upon completion of the project, councils will be required to submit a Project Completion Report detailing the total project costs.

Transport for NSW will release the remaining balance of project costs up to 30 per cent of the grant value.

### 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 SmartyGrants portal or the relevant Transport for NSW Local Government Manager.

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