



Paul Toole MP

Member for Bathurst Electorate



Lithgow City Council

Scanned

18 JUL 2017

Doc Set ID

GA Ref

Years

10th July 2017

Mr G Faulkner
General Manager
Lithgow City Council
PO Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Dear Mr Faulkner,

I advise that applications are now open for the NSW Governments **Resources for Regions** program.

The program recognises the impact mining operations have on local infrastructure and services and there is an opportunity for Lithgow City Council and the community to apply for additional support for projects and community facilities across the area.

I encourage you to take the time to identify and nominate some projects which you feel may be important to the Lithgow community.

It would be appreciated if you could advise me of your applications with a full copy of the submissions over the coming weeks for my consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Toole MP
Member for Bathurst.



RESOURCES FOR REGIONS

Program guidelines

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

Mining plays an important role in regional NSW. The industry contributes significant royalties to the state which are reinvested in roads, schools and hospitals and it supports more than 100,000 jobs.

The NSW Government recognises that mining also places unique pressures on regional infrastructure such as the condition of local roads and rail. Resources for Regions is the first program of its kind in this state and reflects the NSW Government's strong commitment to building infrastructure and creating jobs in regional areas.

Since 2012, Resources for Regions has delivered more than \$230 million to 42 projects in mining communities across NSW to revitalise infrastructure by upgrading education, health and cultural facilities and improving roads, rail and vital community services.

Projects funded under Resources for Regions such as the upgrade of the Broken Hill Civic Centre, the replacement of the Cobar water treatment plant and the upgrade of roads in Cessnock and Singleton have had a profound impact on regional communities — creating jobs, driving economic growth and delivering better services.

The 2017-2018 Resources for Regions program will provide greater opportunities for all mining-affected communities across regional NSW. In line with our election commitment, all regional local government areas are invited to submit an expression of interest for projects that will benefit local communities impacted by mining.

The NSW Government has an unwavering commitment of providing three per cent of Restart NSW funding to the Resources for Regions program. Up to \$50 million is available for the 2017-2018 program, meaning the NSW Government's total commitment to the Resources for Regions program since 2012 will exceed \$300 million.

I encourage potential applicants to review these program guidelines and put forward proposals to support regional communities and ensure long-term economic viability.



The Hon John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Skills
Minister for Small Business



1

GUIDELINES

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Resources for Regions

Established under the NSW Government's Restart NSW fund, which was set up to improve economic growth and productivity in NSW, and part of the \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund, the Resources for Regions program delivers improved local infrastructure and services to mining-affected communities.

While mining makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of the state, the NSW Government recognises that this activity can also generate stress for some communities.

The Resources for Regions program demonstrates a commitment by the NSW Government to support these communities by improving road and rail infrastructure, redeveloping hospitals, improving freight facilities, upgrading airports and town centres and other social infrastructure.

In 2017-2018, all regional local government areas that can demonstrate that they are mining-affected to a significant degree are eligible to apply for Resources for Regions funding. Local government, community groups, businesses and non-government organisations in mining-affected communities in regional NSW are invited to apply.

Up to \$50 million is available in the 2017-2018 Resources for Regions program.

Important dates

Expressions of interest —
1 July 2017 to 18 August 2017



ELIGIBILITY

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Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants must be located in regional local government areas and must demonstrate that the local community is mining-affected to a significant degree.

Joint Organisations of Councils (JOCs), Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC) and/or individual local councils, community groups, and non-government organisations can nominate a project proposal.

Partnerships between groups are encouraged.

NSW Government agencies are not eligible for Resources for Regions funding in 2017-2018.

Eligible projects

The Resources for Regions program is open to projects that cater for economic and/or social infrastructure.

Economic infrastructure includes roads, rail and bridges; facilities that improve the movement of freight, airports, local water and sewerage projects and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and businesses.

Social infrastructure includes projects such as recreational facilities, childcare services and those that support affordable housing.

Given that the funding for Resources for Regions comes from the sale of publicly owned assets, the focus will be on projects that involve the creation or enhancement of publicly owned assets.

No minimum or maximum funding amount has been set for the Resources for Regions program. However, applicants are expected to fund about 50 per cent of the project from sources other than the Resources for Regions program.

Resources for Regions provides funding for projects that:

- are able to demonstrate alignment with NSW government priorities and strategies as well as local government strategic plans, with the emphasis on projects that contribute the most to the advancement of mining-affected regions.
- are able to demonstrate that their community and infrastructure services are subject to significant mining industry impact
- deliver growth and other economic benefits
- have a Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) higher than 1.0
- are affordable relative to the available funding, taking into account net life-cycle cost impacts and allowing for on-going operating and maintenance requirements.

Projects that are suitable for other NSW programs may be referred to those programs.

HOW TO APPLY

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The Resources for Regions program is administered by the Regional NSW group within the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet with Infrastructure NSW.

Potential applicants can seek initial advice and assistance from their local Department of Premier and Cabinet Regional Development office.

The NSW Government will invite interested councils to Resources for Regions information sessions throughout 2017.

Visit www.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions for further details.

The program has a two-step application process.

STEP 1

Submit an Expression of Interest

Expressions of interest open on 1 July 2017 and close on 18 August 2017.

STEP 2:

Submit a detailed application

Potential projects will be asked to submit detailed applications.

This will include a financial business case. Assistance is available to complete technical investigations or other development tasks, if required. The local office of Regional Development can also be called on if advice is required on developing the economic arguments for particular projects.

Infrastructure NSW will consult with relevant stakeholder groups which may include other NSW and Federal Government agencies, local council bodies, Members of Parliament, Regional Development Australia, independent experts and other external parties.

All information submitted by the applicant may be provided to other organisations for the purposes of eligibility and project proposal appraisal. Summary information about the project application will be posted on NSW Government websites unless applicants object to its publication.





MORE INFORMATION

www.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions

Contact us

Email: R4R@insw.com

Mail: Infrastructure NSW Resources for Regions,
PO Box R220 Royal Exchange NSW 1225

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RESOURCES FOR REGIONS

Fact sheet

OVERVIEW

The Resources for Regions program delivers improved local infrastructure and services to mining-affected communities and improve economic growth and productivity in NSW.

While the mining industry makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of the state, the NSW Government recognises that this mining activity can place additional stress on regional communities and infrastructure.

The Resources for Regions program is a commitment by the NSW Government to support these communities through improvements to the local infrastructure. This could include road and rail infrastructure, water and sewerage systems and social infrastructure such as childcare centres.

Up to \$50 million is available in the 2017–2018 Resources for Regions program.

ELIGIBILITY

In 2017–2018, the Resources for Regions program will be open to all regional local government areas who can demonstrate that they have been affected by mining to a significant degree.

Local councils, community groups, local businesses and non-government organisations are invited to nominate potential projects. Partnerships between groups are encouraged.

NSW Government agencies are not eligible for Resources for Regions funding in 2017–2018.

PURPOSE OF FUNDS

The Resources for Regions program is open to projects that promote the development of economic and social infrastructure in mining-affected communities.

Economic infrastructure includes roads, rail, facilities that improve the movement of freight, airports, local water and sewerage projects and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and businesses.

Social infrastructure includes recreational facilities, childcare services and projects that support affordable housing.

No minimum or maximum funding amount per project has been set for the Resources for Regions program. Financial co-contributions to projects are strongly encouraged and the program targets a 50 per cent co-contribution rate.



ASSESSMENT

Eligible projects will be assessed against four program criteria

Criteria 1: Strategic assessment

Applicants must demonstrate that projects will meet the statutory purpose of the Restart NSW Fund to improve economic growth and productivity in NSW. For the purposes of the Resources for Regions program, funding must be used to improve local infrastructure in regional areas that are significantly affected by mining operations.

Criteria 2: Economic assessment

Applicants must demonstrate how projects will have a positive impact on productivity and economic growth in NSW through the creation or enhancement of publicly owned assets.

Examples include projects that:

- provide new or diversified employment opportunities
- improve mining industry productivity
- reduce the social impact of mining.

Criteria 3: Affordability

Applicants must demonstrate that the project is affordable given the available funding. Project applications must include construction, operating and maintenance costs, supported by estimations or quotes and including all margins and overheads, project and construction management costs and an appropriate amount of contingency for the project stage and risks. Projects with a co-contribution from other sources will be assessed favourably.

Criteria 4: Deliverability

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the capacity to deliver projects through robust strategies for procurement, project management and risk management. Past performance on the delivery of NSW Government funded projects will be considered.

HOW TO APPLY

Potential applicants can seek initial advice and assistance from their local Department of Premier and Cabinet Regional Development office. The application process involves two steps — submitting an Expression of Interest and following up with a more detailed proposal.

Contact a Department of Premier and Cabinet Regional Development office:

Central Coast (02) 4337 2311

Hunter (02) 4921 2600

Illawarra (02) 4253 6300

New England/North West (02) 6760 2670

North Coast (02) 6659 8650

Riverina Murray (02) 6926 8600

South East (02) 6229 7800

Western (02) 6826 7800

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions



RESOURCES FOR REGIONS

Frequently asked questions

Q What is the Resources for Regions program?

A The Resources for Regions program delivers improved local infrastructure and services to mining-affected communities. It was established under the NSW Government's Restart NSW fund, set up to improve economic growth and productivity in NSW and is part of the \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund spend across regional NSW.

Q Why was Resources for Regions established?

A The NSW Government recognises that while the mining industry makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of the state, mining activity can place additional stress on regional communities and infrastructure.

The Resources for Regions program is a commitment by the NSW Government to support mining-affected communities through improvements to regional infrastructure, including roads and rail, water and sewerage systems, and social infrastructure, such as childcare services.

Q How much money is available?

A Up to \$50 million is available in the 2017-2018 Resources for Regions program.

Q Is there a limit for the amount of money per project?

A No. There is no set minimum or maximum amount that can be provided in grant funding under Resources for Regions.

Financial co-contributions to projects are strongly encouraged and the program targets a 50 per cent co-contribution rate. Applicants are encouraged to consider and propose the maximum co-contribution to the project, from council, industry, users and other Commonwealth and NSW Government sources.

Q Who is eligible to apply for Resources for Regions funding?

A This program is open to all regional local government areas that can demonstrate that they are mining-affected to a significant degree.


Local councils, community groups and non-government organisations are invited to nominate potential projects. Partnerships between groups are encouraged.

NSW Government agencies are not eligible for Resources for Regions funding in 2017-2018.

Q What kinds of projects are eligible?

A The Resources for Regions program is open to projects that promote the development of economic and social infrastructure.

Economic infrastructure includes roads, rail, facilities that improve the movement of freight, airports, local water and sewerage projects and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and businesses.



Social infrastructure includes recreational facilities, childcare services and projects that support affordable housing.

Q How will projects be assessed?

A There are four criteria in the assessment process: strategic assessment, economic assessment, affordability and deliverability.

Projects must meet the statutory purpose of the Restart NSW fund, which is to improve economic growth and productivity in the state. In this instance, the funding must be used to improve local infrastructure in regional areas that are affected by mining operations.

Applicants must demonstrate how a project will have a positive impact on productivity and economic growth in NSW through the creation or enhancement of publicly owned assets.

Proposals must also demonstrate that the project is affordable given the available funding, and applicants must show that they have the capacity to deliver the project through robust strategies for procurement, project management and risk management.

Q How are applications for Resources for Regions made?

A Potential applicants should seek initial advice and assistance from their local Department of Premier and Cabinet Office of Regional Development. The application process involves two steps – submitting an Expression of Interest and following up with a more detailed proposal.

Q What happens after the Expression of Interest is submitted?

A The Expression of Interest will be assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria described above. The projects that best meet these criteria will be shortlisted and invited to develop a detailed application.

The assessment will be based on the information provided by the applicants, including supporting documentation, as well as advice from other parties. The reviewers may also request clarification or additional information from applicants.

Infrastructure NSW's (INSW) Regional Independent Assessment Panel will review applications and make recommendations to the NSW Government. If a project is shortlisted, applicants will be invited to prepare a full application including a full financial business case.

If an applicant requires funding assistance to complete technical investigations or other development tasks, they are asked to indicate this in their Expression of Interest. If assistance in preparing a full financial business case or advice on developing the economic arguments for particular projects is required, contact the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Office of Regional Development.

Q Who will be consulted during the assessment?

A Infrastructure NSW will consult on applications with relevant stakeholder groups which may include other NSW and federal government agencies, local councils, Members of Parliament, Regional Development Australia, independent experts and other external parties.

Q How will information in applications be handled?

A All information submitted by an applicant may be provided to other organisations for the purposes of eligibility and project proposal appraisal.

Summary information about the project application will be posted on NSW Government websites unless applicants advise that they do not agree to this.

Applicants should identify any information submitted which they wish to be considered as confidential, supported by reasons for the request. Except as disclosed, INSW will keep all information confidential and secure.

Any request made under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 for access to an application, including information marked 'confidential', will be determined in accordance with the Act.

The NSW Government is ensuring that the process for providing Restart NSW funding is transparent and in accordance with published guidelines. The NSW Government will invite interested councils to Resources for Regions information sessions throughout 2017.

All information provided at information sessions, including questions and answers and any change or clarification of the guidelines, will be published on the NSW Government's website:

www.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions

Email: R4R@insw.com