

Fuel supply update

The Commonwealth National Fuel Security Plan setting is level 2. Fuel supply continues to operate, but some local supplies are disrupted.

Fuel update for NSW

(/driving-boating-and-transport/fuel-update-for-nsw)



Language (<https://account.service.nsw.gov.au/>)



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Community Participation Stream program guidelines

The Community Participation Stream in the Active Regional Communities Package ([/grants-and-funding/active-regional-communities-package](#))

is a \$25 million investment from the Regional Development Trust Fund.

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Message from the Minister



Our rural and regional towns, cities and local communities are full of people who care deeply about where they live and who work every day to make their communities stronger, more welcoming and more resilient. As a government, we want to back that effort. We want every community across NSW to be a great place to live and work, not just today, but for generations to come.

Through the Active Regional Communities Package, we're investing up to \$50 million to help communities attract and retain the residents and workers they need to ensure long-term economic success and sustainability. A strong local

economy depends on people choosing to stay, build their careers, raise families and contribute to local life, and this program is designed to support exactly that.

We also know that strong regional communities rely on more than just jobs and infrastructure. They rely on places where people can come together, feel connected and supported, and build the kind of social cohesion that helps communities withstand economic or environmental shocks.

This program is the next investment under the Regional Development Trust. Through it, we're helping communities deliver the events, facilities and activities that bring people together and showcase the best of regional NSW. We're improving access to community services and programs so more people can participate, no matter their age, background or circumstances. And we're backing local organisations – the people on the ground who know their communities best – to expand the activities that support wellbeing, inclusion and economic participation.

By supporting everything from major regional events to small but important grassroots initiatives, we're building a pipeline of ideas and opportunities that will continue to strengthen local economies and community life into the future. This is about giving communities the tools, confidence and support they need to shape their own future.

I encourage community organisations, councils, local leaders and volunteers to think about how this program can help bring your ideas to life. Together, we can continue building regional communities that are vibrant, resilient and full of opportunity.

The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC

Minister for Regional NSW

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Western NSW

Key information

Grant Program Details

Community Participation Stream

Active Regional Communities Package

Opening date

23 March 2026

Closing date and time

4pm, 1 May 2026

Grant Program Details**Community Participation Stream
Active Regional Communities Package**

Application outcome date

From 30 June 2026

Applicants will be notified as soon as possible after a decision has been made at the NSW Government's discretion.

Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)

Projects must commence within 6 months of the commencement date of the funding deed and be completed within 4 years from the commencement date of the funding deed (subject to the terms and conditions of an executed funding deed).

Decision-maker

Minister for Regional NSW

NSW Government Agency

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (the department)

Type of grant opportunity

Open, non-competitive

Total program funding

\$25 million (GST exclusive)

Grant amounts

Between \$100,000 and \$1 million (GST exclusive).

For enquiries and support please only use these details. To maintain the integrity of the grant process, do not contact any other NSW Government staff.

Website

[Community Participation Stream 2 \(/grants-and-funding/community-participation\)](#)

Email

regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au
(mailto:regionaldevelopmenttrust@dpird.nsw.gov.au)

Program summary

The purpose of the Active Regional Communities Package is to enhance the liveability, resilience and long-term sustainability of regional NSW by investing in community events, infrastructure and locally driven activities that strengthen social cohesion, support community participation, and improve the amenity of regional places.

The Active Regional Communities Package has 3 streams to target activities, with proportionate investment, to achieve the overarching objective of the Active Regional Communities Package. The Streams enable funding to support a wide range of projects that work together to attract and retain residents and workers essential to regional economic success and provide communities opportunities needed to thrive and adapt to economic or environmental change.

Community Participation Stream

There are 3 Streams under the Active Regional Communities Package that support a range of projects that will contribute to the overall objective of making regional NSW a great place to live and work.

These guidelines are for the Community Participation Stream.

Please read the guidelines below in full before submitting your application.

Program purpose and objectives

The Community Participation Stream (the program) is a \$25 million investment from the Regional Development Trust Fund and delivers priorities identified in the Regional Development Trust Fund Investment Strategy in the following Key Focus Areas of the strategy:

- Community connection and capacity building
- Improving regional service delivery.

The overarching Active Regional Communities Package aims to make regional NSW a great place to live and work.

The objective of the Community Participation Stream is to:

- Increase liveability and social cohesion of communities through greater participation in community activities that contribute to the wellbeing, social or economic participation of residents

The expected outcomes of the Community Participation Stream are:

Short-term outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to diversion activities, reduction in youth crime • Improved amenity of local activities lifts community engagement.
Medium-term outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and well-being improvements, and increased opportunities to develop skills and connections within the local community particularly for young people and families
Long-term outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract and retain the residents and workers needed to ensure the economic success and ongoing sustainability of regional communities • Communities have the amenities and social cohesion needed to build and maintain resilience from economic or environmental shocks.

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Type of grant opportunity



Intended recipients



Grant value



Grant project delivery timeframe



Program delivery



Co-contributions



Selection criteria

The selection criteria comprise of compliance, eligibility, project feasibility and assessment criteria.

All applications will be assessed for compliance, eligibility and feasibility against the criteria. Only applications that meet these criteria will move to the next stage of assessment criteria.

Compliance criteria

The project must demonstrate compliance with the *Regional Development Act 2004* (the Act). Applicants must detail how the project is compliant with the Act (see below) and identify which of the purposes in points a) to g) below, the project delivers.

Purposes for which funding will be provided



Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria includes:

- eligible applicants
- eligible projects/activities
- eligible locations
- eligible costs.

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Eligible applicants



Ineligible applicants



Eligible projects



Ineligible projects



Eligible locations



Eligible costs



Ineligible costs



Co-contributions



Due diligence and probity



Project feasibility

Eligible projects will be assessed to ensure the project is feasible and able to be delivered. Project feasibility will be assessed against the following criteria:

- provision of a realistic project budget with quotes, and/or detailed cost estimates
- provision of a detailed project management plan demonstrating the project can be completed in the required timeframe
- provision of a feasible and sustainable proposed operating model over the life of the funded project
- demonstrated project management experience and capacity (or ability to access the necessary expertise and support) to deliver the project
- provision of a risk management plan with risk mitigation strategies.

Only projects that score 70 per cent or more on the feasibility assessment can be considered eligible for funding. Applications that score under 70 per cent will be assessed as ineligible based on insufficient evidence to demonstrate feasibility.

Merit assessment criteria

Merit assessment criteria	Specific information and evidence required	Weighting
Strategic alignment	<p>How the benefits and outcomes of the project contribute to the objective the Community Participation Stream.</p> <p>How the project addresses the relevant Key Focus Areas and priorities in the <u>Regional Development Trust Fund Investment Strategy</u> (/sites/default/files/noindex/2025-03/regional-development-trust-investment-strategy-and-governance-framework.pdf)</p> <p>How the project also addresses key priorities for the NSW Government or local strategies.</p>	25%
Value for money	<p>The significance of the community need, and the current gap in provision, that will be addressed by the project.</p> <p>The project's benefits and costs.</p> <p>Evidence that the project will not proceed without support.</p> <p>A strategy for maintenance, operation, or closure, once the project is complete and the grant is expended (as applicable).</p>	25%
Economic benefit	<p>The potential for the project to increase participation in community activities or programs related to wellbeing, social or economic participation, to meet the program objectives.</p> <p>The contribution of the project, either directly or indirectly, to improving the economic or social outcomes for the community or key cohorts in the community.</p>	25%

Merit assessment criteria	Specific information and evidence required	Weighting
Balanced approach to regional economic development	<p>The likely economic or social impact on the region/locality.</p> <p>How the project facilitates a balanced approach to regional economic development and contributes to a diversity of project types across rural and regional NSW.</p>	25%

Application process

The program is a single stage application process. Applicants can only submit one application per Stream.

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Where to apply



When to apply



What to include



False and misleading information



After submitting application



Getting support



Assessment process

Determining which applications are successful involves these stages:

- preliminary assessment (compliance, eligibility, feasibility)
- merit-based assessment criteria
- decision making.

Please note that the department typically receives far more applications than it can support. Applicants are not guaranteed funding even if the application is of high merit. Further, successful applications may not be funded to the full amount requested.

At any stage, applicants may be referred to other, more suitable NSW Government programs. Applicants may need to update their applications to meet the criteria of the referred program.

The department may seek advice from other NSW Government agencies and other sources such as subject matter experts and/or technical advisors during the assessment process. Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process.

The department may contact applicants seeking clarification or further information. Probity advisors will provide guidance and advice to the department to ensure decisions are made with integrity, fairness and accountability.

Preliminary assessment

Compliance and eligibility



Project feasibility assessment



Merit-based assessment criteria

The department will undertake a merit-based assessment on applications that have been determined as compliant, eligible and feasible as part of the preliminary assessment stage.

The assessment team will assess each application on its merits without reference to the comparative merits of other applications.

The department may seek additional information to assist in the assessment process. The department will notify applicants if additional information and supporting material is required and the timeframes in which it is required.

The department will provide the assessment outcomes of all applications to the assessment panel.

Assessment panel



Decision making

The final decision maker for the program is the Minister for Regional NSW.

Following completion of the assessment process, the department will provide the assessment outcomes (as outlined in the NSW Grants Administration Guide) to the Minister for Regional NSW for final funding decisions.

The decision maker may take other factors into account including advice from the department, relevant NSW Government external advisory bodies, probity advice, and issues that could cause reputational or other risks to the NSW Government.

In limited circumstances, the decision maker may waive selection criteria, for example, where not doing so would lead to perverse or unfair outcomes, be contrary to the policy intent, or damage the reputation and integrity of the program.

If the decision-maker departs from the assessment panel recommendation, the decision maker will arrange for the departures to be published with reasons.

The decision maker’s decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval to award a grant
- the amount awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

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Notification of application outcome



Feedback and appeal



Announcements



Publication of grants information



Successful grant applications

Successful applicants must execute a funding deed with the department.

There is no promise of funding until both the applicant and the department have executed a funding deed (and the applicant has met any other funding conditions).

Importantly, this means that successful applicants must not make financial commitments for the funded activities until both the applicant and the department have executed a funding deed.

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Funding deed



Grant payment



Unspent funds



Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements



Evaluation



Additional information and resources

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Complaint handling



Access to information



Conflict of interest management



Confidentiality



Conduct



Discretion



Changes and publication



No offer



The above information can be downloaded to PDF by selecting 'Print this page' at the top right-hand corner of this page. Ease of downloading allows for a user-friendly version of Program Guidelines that applicants and grantees can have on-hand. Please note the PDF that generates will not be tagged for accessibility.

Appendix A

Eligible NSW Local Government Areas (and eligible non-LGAs)

Albury City	Forbes Shire	Narromine Shire
Armidale Regional	Gilgandra Shire	Newcastle City
Ballina Shire	Glen Innes Severn	Oberon
Balranald Shire	Goulburn Mulwaree	Orange City
Bathurst Regional	Greater Hume Shire	Parkes Shire
Bega Valley Shire	Griffith City	Port Macquarie-Hastings
Bellingen Shire	Gunnedah Shire	Port Stephens
Berrigan Shire	Gwydir Shire	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional
Bland Shire	Hay Shire	Richmond Valley
Blayney Shire	Hilltops	Shellharbour City
Bogan Shire	Inverell Shire	Shoalhaven City
Bourke Shire	Junee Shire	Singleton

Brewarrina Shire	Kempsey Shire	Snowy Monaro Regional
Broken Hill City	Kiama Municipality	Snowy Valleys
Byron Shire	Kyogle	Tamworth Regional
Cabonne	Lachlan Shire	Temora Shire
Carrathool Shire	Lake Macquarie City	Tenterfield Shire
Central Coast	Leeton Shire	Tweed Shire
Central Darling Shire	Lismore City	Upper Hunter Shire
Cessnock City	Lithgow City	Upper Lachlan Shire
Clarence Valley	Liverpool Plains Shire	Uralla Shire
Cobar Shire	Lockhart Shire	Wagga Wagga City
Coffs Harbour City	Lord Howe Island	Walcha
Coolamon Shire	Maitland City	Walgett Shire
Coonamble Shire	Mid-Coast	Warren Shire
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	Mid-Western Regional	Warrumbungle Shire
Cowra Shire	Moree Plains Shire	Weddin Shire
Dubbo Regional	Murray River	Wentworth Shire
Dungog Shire	Murrumbidgee	Wingecarribee Shire
Edward River	Muswellbrook Shire	Wollongong City
Eurobodalla Shire	Nambucca Valley	Yass Valley
Unincorporated Far West NSW	Narrabri Shire	

Federation

Narrandera Shire
