RESOURCES
FOR
REGIONS

Round Eight
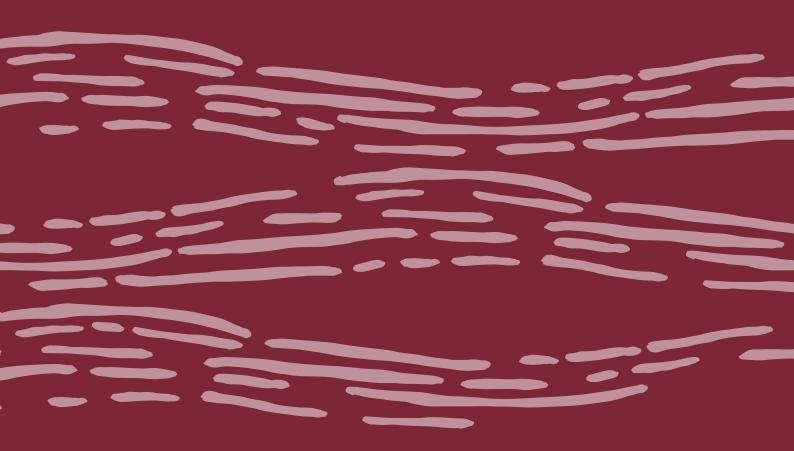### Program Guidelines

NSW GOVERNMENT

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have questions about this program?
Get in touch with your local
Department of Regional NSW office.

Email: regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 1300 679 673

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

The mining and resources sector plays an important role in supporting a strong NSW economy and is the backbone for many regional communities, providing around 40,000 jobs for people across the state. Add to this the thousands of people working in mining-related jobs, and it is easy to see how important the sector is to making regional NSW a place where people can live, work and raise a family.

That is why the NSW Government established the Resources for Regions program in 2012 to help fund local infrastructure and manage the unique conditions for mining communities.

Since then, we have run seven rounds of the program, providing $345 million in funding to 149 projects including new and upgraded roads, water and sewerage systems, community resilience programs, childcare centres and sports fields. In Round Seven, we broadened the program to include community programs in addition to infrastructure, and the response was overwhelming.

Round Seven has been the most successful round to date and for the first time, each of the 24 eligible mining-affected communities received a guaranteed minimum allocation of funding.

The expanded program resulted in an exciting range of projects aimed at improving everyday living and increasing the wellbeing of mining communities. It funded business development, neighbourhood, community and environmental programs.

I was very pleased to see the variety of applications put forward last year - from shared pathways and community centres to resilience and skills training – and I hope to see a great range of project applications submitted again this year. A total $75 million is available through Round Eight, for both community programs and infrastructure projects.

Many of the successful projects funded through previous rounds can be found on the Regional Growth Fund web page at nsw.gov.au/regional-growth-fund.

I encourage you to take a look and hope you are inspired to submit an application in Round Eight.

The Hon. John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

OVERVIEW

The Resources for Regions program has run since 2012, providing support to communities across regional NSW impacted by mining. Round Seven was the first round of the revamped program following a Strategic Review in 2019. The revised program ensures support is provided to the right areas and long-term benefits are delivered to NSW's highly valued mining communities. The review saw several key recommendations implemented to reshape and refocus the program.

Mining impacts differ across NSW regional communities.[1] Some communities may have an increased need for new infrastructure and community amenities to support population and industry growth. Others may need infrastructure or other initiatives to support economic resilience, long-term sustainability and community wellbeing.

The Resources for Regions program recognises the significant benefits mining delivers to the NSW economy, and the unique and diverse needs of mining communities. The program will fund infrastructure projects and community programs that help address these unique and diverse needs.

The Resources for Regions program is administered by the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Resources for Regions program aims to support the ongoing prosperity of mining communities in regional NSW by providing economic opportunities, improved amenity and positive social outcomes.

KEY DATES

Round Eight applications open
17 May 2021

Applications close
12 July 2021

Assessment & approval process
12 July - 6 September 2021

Announcement of successful applications
September 2021

Funding Deed contracting
October 2021

Program evaluation
From January 2022

In extenuating circumstances, late applications may be accepted at the sole discretion of the DRNSW.

1. *Strategic Review of the Resources for Regions Program – Inputs Summary Report*, University of Technology Sydney Institute for Public Policy and Governance, October 2019.

PROGRAM FUNDING

A total of $75 million is available under Resources for Regions Round Eight to be allocated across the identified eligible Local Government Areas.

Prescribed allocations of funding are assigned to eligible Local Government Areas to ensure the Resources for Regions program is weighted towards supporting the most mining-affected communities in NSW.

The funding allocations to eligible Local Government Areas consist of:

- base allocation of $1 million
- weighted funding to the most mining-affected Local Government Areas using the mining employment location quotient. Further information about the location quotient is available in the Frequently Asked Questions.

Each eligible council will be informed in writing of the funding allocation available for their Local Government Area. Councils are eligible to submit projects up to the maximum funding allocation for their Local Government Area.

If a council submits applications seeking funding above the nominated funding allocation for their Local Government Area, council is asked to rank projects, including joint projects (if applicable), in their order of local priority.

Where a Local Government Area's funding allocation is not fully exhausted, the ability to utilise these funds in future rounds or for other projects will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Grant amounts

Project type	Minimum grant funding	Maximum funding
Infrastructure	$250,000	The individual Local Government Area's funding allocation
Program	$100,000	$300,000 per program*
Business cases/ future project planning	$50,000	$200,000

*A maximum of 30 per cent of the Local Governments Areas' total allocation can be used towards programs.

Where infrastructure and community programs are packaged together to meet minimum funding requirements, the projects must be comprised of projects that are clearly dependent and have the same objective and outcomes.

Co-contributions

Applicants are strongly encouraged to make a financial co-contribution to their projects; however, this is not a mandatory eligibility requirement. Co-contributions could include leveraging council funds as well as funding from other sources including other NSW or Australian Government programs.

Project delivery or viability should not be dependent on co-contributions that have not been secured.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects submitted under Resources for Regions Round Eight will need to meet the program eligibility and assessment criteria to receive funding. All applications will be assessed for eligibility and against the assessment criteria.

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants must be local councils located in one of the eligible Local Government Areas identified in Appendix A. These Local Government Areas are eligible because they have been identified as being mining-affected communities.

Eligible councils are encouraged to submit joint applications, particularly for larger scale infrastructure projects across Local Government Areas.

Joint Organisations are eligible to apply as a lead applicant providing the project is located in an eligible Local Government Area or Local Government Areas and the Joint Organisation has the support of an eligible council/s to allocate a portion of the council's allocated funds towards to the project. This support can be demonstrated through a letter of support from the eligible council/s.

Councils are expected to work with community groups to identify priority projects and submit applications on behalf of these organisations. Councils are encouraged to consider project partnerships, however only councils can submit an application on behalf of a community group.

If projects are brought forward to a council by community groups but are not submitted, an independent review process can be requested to ensure councils have given the project appropriate consideration. A review request should be submitted to the DRNSW before 21 June 2021.

Organisations interested in putting forward a project are encouraged to read all program details and approach their local council early in the application period.

Eligible project locations

Projects must be in an eligible Local Government Area or must deliver its primary benefits to one or more eligible Local Government Area/s. This applies to all applications including joint applications.

Eligible project types

Projects must be for infrastructure or community programs that support the ongoing prosperity of mining communities by providing economic opportunities, improved amenity and positive social outcomes.

Applications for community programs should not exceed 30 per cent of the total available funding allocation for each Local Government Area.

The specific scope of works and key milestones of the project must be defined in the application.

All applications need to demonstrate the project can commence within six months of the announcement of funding and can be completed within two years.

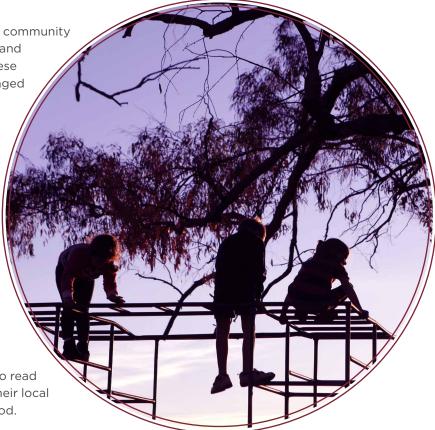All projects must deliver public benefit.

Table 1. Examples of eligible projects

Project type	Key objectives	Examples
Infrastructure	Mitigate the impact of mining on local infrastructure in the LGA.	• Service infrastructure such as road or bridge upgrades or waste infrastructure.
	Delivery of new economic opportunities to help strengthen and/or diversify the local economy.	• Upgrade or new or improved tourism projects that align with the region's Destination Management Plan. • Infrastructure projects aligned to the Local Government Area's local endowments as articulated in the relevant Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) or a relevant NSW Government Strategy (e.g. State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038, Future Transport 2056, Regional Growth Plans).
	Improved community amenity through new or upgraded community infrastructure.	• New or enhanced public spaces including recreational facility upgrades, walking and cycling tracks, community centres and halls. • Sports facilities, local pool or other publicly owned health and fitness facility upgrades. • Main street or town centre beautification projects. • Civic centre or art gallery upgrades, libraries or community or cultural spaces. • Upgrades to community infrastructure that improve accessibility and inclusion. • Common infrastructure such as amenities or other improvements to public spaces.
Community programs	Economic diversification initiatives to support the long-term resilience and prosperity of mining communities.	• Targeted skills development programs. • Industry development or business innovation workshops. • Projects related to the development of tourism products that align with the region's Destination Management Plan including the development of new or enhanced tourism experiences and digital product development.
	Deliver community wellbeing outcomes by enhancing the overall liveability of mining communities.	• Larger scale sporting festivals, arts, culture or cultural heritage projects that are accessible and inclusive and support community involvement. • Promotion of local culture or history or land care projects. • Community programs that support or encourage mining workers or their families to relocate to the region or support wellbeing outcomes for residents of mining communities. • Indigenous tourism or cultural heritage projects. • Inclusiveness training for mainstream services to enable community participation. • Community events to enable community networking and relationship building.

Funding to support future project planning

Each eligible Local Government Area can apply for up to $200,000 from their total funding allocation for projects that will support the planning of future projects that are of strategic importance to the Local Government Area and are identified in the council's Community Strategic Plan.

Eligible costs include:

- business case development for specific infrastructure or community programs
- feasibility and other studies to inform future infrastructure projects or community programs
- master planning to inform future developments.

Ineligible projects/project costs

Infrastructure and programs are not eligible for funding if they:

- are not in an eligible location or do not provide direct benefit to an eligible Local Government Area
- are for the day-to-day delivery of essential or core council services
- are for a privately-owned asset or are on private land unless there is a clear public benefit and the landowner has provided documented consent
- have exclusive private benefits or provide direct commercial and/or exclusive private benefit to an individual or business
- are for marketing, advertising or product promotion
- are for works that are listed in a council's current year capital works budget.

Mount Kembla Shared Path

Ineligible project costs include:

- costs related to buying or upgrading non–fixed equipment or supplies, unless considered essential to program delivery and are incidental costs to the overall project budget
- financing, including debt financing, insurance or rental costs
- costs relating to depreciation of plant and equipment beyond the life of the project
- non-project related staff training and development costs
- operational expenditure, including but not limited to regular repairs and maintenance
- ongoing/recurrent funding that is required beyond the stated timeframe of the project
- for infrastructure projects, funding for any ongoing staff or operational costs
- for community programs, funding for ongoing staff or operational costs beyond the scope and timeframe of the funded project
- retrospective funding to cover any project component that is already complete before funding is announced.
- costs related to accommodation services, such as tourist parks unless for a common infrastructure such amenities or improvements to public spaces.

All costs will be assessed against program criteria with a focus on how the project delivers benefits linked to the key objectives of the Resources for Regions program.

Inclusion and accessibility

The NSW Government is seeking to help regional communities future-proof infrastructure and programs by funding universally designed amenities that move beyond compliance and provide dignified inclusion in social and community programs.

Applicants must demonstrate consideration of inclusion and accessibility measures in their application. Projects which demonstrate the provision of fit-for-purpose, accessible and safe facilities, and participation opportunities with the aim of increasing access and inclusion are encouraged.

This applies to both infrastructure projects and community or social programs (where applicable) with the aim to improve existing accessibility and inclusion to encourage greater participation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

All applications that meet the eligibility criteria must also meet the relevant assessment criteria to receive funding. Eligible applications will be assessed against the following:

1. delivery of outcomes aligned with the program objectives
2. local need
3. affordability
4. deliverability.

Projects will be assessed as a 'Yes/No' against the assessment criteria. Projects will not be competitively assessed across Local Government Areas.

1. Delivery of outcomes aligned with program objectives

Projects must demonstrate they will deliver on one of the five key strategic objectives of the program.

Infrastructure projects must show capacity to either:

- mitigate the impact of mining on local infrastructure in the Local Government Area, or

- deliver new economic opportunities to help strengthen and/or diversify the local economy, or

- improve community amenity through new or upgraded community infrastructure.

Community programs must show the capacity to either:

- support economic diversification initiatives to support the long-term resilience and prosperity of mining communities, or

- deliver community wellbeing outcomes by improving the overall liveability of mining communities.

Applications will need to show measurable outcomes that can be delivered by each project and how the applicant will monitor these outcomes. Projects that are not able to articulate clear outcomes and monitoring and reporting processes will not be approved for funding.

Applicants can refer to the Outcome Reporting Guidance Notes at nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions for examples on how their project outcomes can be measured.

The outcomes to be delivered and measured for each project should be proportionate to the amount of funding requested.

Applicants may be asked to clarify outcomes and reporting measures during the assessment process. The reporting methodology for each project must be agreed prior to entering a funding deed. Applicants can refer to a sample funding deed available at nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions

nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions

2. Local need

Applications must demonstrate the project aligns with one or more outcomes in one of the following plans:

- the Local Government Area's Community Strategic Plan or Delivery Program
- the broader Regional Plan of which the Local Government Area or Joint Organisation is a part of
- the broader Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) for the region or relevant NSW Government Strategy (e.g. State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038, Future Transport 2056, Regional Growth Plans).

Where individual projects are not specifically identified in the above plans, applications will need to demonstrate how the project will deliver against one or more objectives identified in the relevant plan/s. Projects can demonstrate public benefit by showing how the project will benefit the public generally, or a sufficient section of the public. Similarly, while projects can be located on private land they must not be solely for private benefit. The applicant will need to show how the facility will be open to the community.

It is advisable that tourism product development projects are developed in collaboration with the local Destination Network and, where the project relates to Indigenous tourism, the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council.

3. Affordability

Applicants will need to demonstrate projects can be delivered within the identified budget and can be managed independent of further state or other government funding. Quotes or detailed estimates should be provided.

Projects should support local procurement, where possible, and articulate how they will do this.

Project costs eligible for funding include those associated with capital costs to build local economic and community infrastructure (including up to 20 per cent for project management costs).

Detailed costings should be provided in each application and be only for the period required to deliver stated outcomes of the projects.

Projects will need to be delivered within a two-year timeframe. Extensions may be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the DRNSW.

Project management and administration costs are eligible for projects to a maximum of 20 per cent of the total project cost.

Project value for money will be assessed by determining that the outcomes to be delivered by a project are proportionate to the amount of funding requested by that project.

4. Deliverability

Project deliverability refers to the applicant's capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project.

Applicants must demonstrate the project is investment ready by providing:

- a detailed and realistic project management plan (including risk assessment and management plans)
- evidence the project can commence within six months of funding announcement and can be delivered within two years as outlined in the project plan or business case
- confirmation there is no serious planning, construction, zoning, environmental and/or Native Title impediments to delivering the project
- evidence the applicant has the required expertise to deliver the project or program and/or can access experienced and qualified personnel to support the delivery of the project
- for infrastructure, evidence that the applicant has the financial capacity to manage the infrastructure, including its operation and/or maintenance when the project is completed.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Resources for Regions Round Eight will be a single stage application process.

To facilitate assessment of applications, applicants are required to submit the application documents via the program's online portal.

How to apply

Visit r4r.smartygrants.com.au/R4R8 to make an application to the Resources for Regions program.

Project category	Application documents required
Category 1 $50,000 to $5 million funding requested	• Completed application form • Completed project plan template • Completed budget template (with evidence of estimated costs) • Land owner's consent (if applicable) • Evidence of $20 million Public Liability Insurance
Category 2 Over $5 million funding requested	• Completed application form • Business case in DRNSW template • Land owner's consent (if applicable) • Evidence of $20 million Public Liability Insurance

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Following receipt of applications, DRNSW staff will assess projects against the program eligibility requirements and then facilitate the assessment of projects against the assessment criteria.

Through the assessment process, DRNSW may request additional information from the applicant. DRNSW may also seek advice from other NSW Government agencies or other third parties (such as probity advisors) to assist with the assessment of projects. The Resources for Regions Project Assessment Panel will review project eligibility and assessment outcomes and form a list of projects that are deemed suitable/not suitable for government consideration.

The Assessment Panel may recommend part-funding of projects where there is insufficient funding available for the whole project or where only a component of the project is considered suitable for funding. Councils may be requested to submit alternative projects if the projects they submit are deemed unsuitable or ineligible.

Project recommendations are considered by the Deputy Premier and submitted to the NSW Cabinet Committee on Expenditure Review for the final funding decision. Other factors may be taken into consideration when determining final projects to receive funding.

If the project is successful

Successful applicants will be required to:

- enter into a funding deed with the NSW Government
- not make financial commitments for funded activities until funding deeds have been executed
- submit project progress reports to the NSW Government as outlined in the funding deed. Grants will be paid via milestone payments set out in the funding deed
- pay back unspent funds or those funds which have not been spent in accordance with the funding deed
- participate in a program evaluation after the project has commenced to determine the extent to which their projects have contributed to the objectives of the fund
- hold all relevant insurances, such as public liability insurance of $20 million, or other insurance depending on the project
- provide evidence of landowner consent if the project is being delivered on private land
- acknowledge financial support for projects as per the NSW Government Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines available at nsw.gov.au/nsw-government-communications/branding
- note the NSW Government reserves the right to undertake an audit of grant funding within a period seven years from the signing of the funding deed.

Requests for variations or changes to the project will only be considered in limited circumstances.

The evaluation of the program will require applicants to provide evidence of how projects have resulted in a measurable benefit to the community that is consistent with the objectives of the program.

Any information submitted by an applicant may be used for promotional material prepared by the NSW Government.

If the project is unsuccessful

Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of each application and will be offered a feedback information session for any unsuccessful application.

IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applicants should note:

- the NSW Government may choose to publicly announce funding for individual applications and the expected jobs created by the funding. It may also use information provided in the grant to develop case studies
- all awarded grants will be GST exclusive. If you are registered for GST, this will be applied on top of the agreed grant value when payment is made to you. Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by taxation law. It is recommended applicants seek independent professional advice about taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. The NSW Government does not provide advice on individual taxation circumstances.

COMPLAINTS

Any concerns about the program or individual applications should be submitted in writing to regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au

If applicants do not agree with the way the DRNSW handled the issue, they may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via ombo.nsw.gov.au

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT

Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW). Information deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) makes government information accessible to the public by:

- requiring government agencies to make certain sorts of information freely available
- encouraging government agencies to release as much other information as possible
- giving the public an enforceable right to make access applications for government information
- restricting access to information only when there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

RESOURCES FOR REGIONS SUCCESS STORIES

Helensburgh Town Centre Revitalisation Project

This project is revitalising the historic township of Helensburgh, improving pedestrian safety and resident amenity.

Total NSW Government funding: $1.6 million.

Helensburgh is home to Australia's oldest continually operating coal mine. This transformational project is revitalising this historic mining township while maintaining existing mining truck movements within the town centre. These works include pedestrian crossing safety improvements, upgrade of the main streets, new footpaths connecting the town centre to recreation and sporting precincts, a new playground, car park upgrades and a new roundabout. These improvements support the aging Helensburgh population and help to increase economic activity of local businesses in the town centre.

Orange Airport Security and Passenger Enhancements

$1.5 million is funding transformation of the Airport into a true regional transport hub with modern and secure facilities.

Total NSW Government funding: $1.5 million.

The Airport Security and Passenger Enhancement Project is the next strategic step in the development of the Orange Airport as a truly regional transport hub. This project enhances security at the Airport for commuters to park their car in a secure environment and increases protection from the weather for passengers being dropped off or picked up at the terminal with the construction of an all-weather awning. The terminal has had a new fit out including mobile device charging stations, workstations, free Wi-Fi and conference facilities to allow people to work remotely while waiting for flights.

nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions

AVAILABLE SUPPORT

For help preparing applications, information and resources including relevant application templates are available at nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions

Staff from the DRNSW will be available to work with applicants to identify projects that will benefit the community and prepare applications.

It is strongly recommended that applicants seek input from the DRNSW prior to applying to ensure applications are consistent with Resources for Regions Round Eight key objectives, are well-developed and investment ready.

For assistance please contact regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 679 673 for a referral.

APPENDIX A
ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

- Bland Shire Council
- Blayney Shire Council
- Bogan Shire Council
- Broken Hill City Council
- Cabonne Council
- Cessnock City Council
- Cobar Shire Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Lithgow City Council
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Maitland City Council
- Mid-Western Regional Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Narromine Shire Council
- Newcastle City Council
- Orange City Council
- Parkes Shire Council
- Singleton Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council
- Wentworth Shire Council
- Wollondilly Shire Council
- Wollongong City Council

FIND OUT MORE

Contact us

regionalnsw.business@regional.nsw.gov.au

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