



REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

Growing economies and
supporting communities



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

As a government, we are judged on what we deliver to the community. We have worked hard to build a strong budget and restore NSW to its rightful place as the number one economy in the country. We are rolling out a record-breaking infrastructure program that is already having a great impact across all parts of the state. Now, we have an opportunity to ensure every community receives its fair share.

That is why I am proud to announce an extra \$1.3 billion in regional growth funding over the next four years. This once-in-a-lifetime funding will ensure the investment in roads, hospitals, schools, sporting and cultural facilities that every community needs.

The NSW Government will make sure each community grows and creates an even better quality of life for its citizens. We will work closely with community organisations, industry and business to direct these investments to where they are needed most.

This is a promise we will deliver on: ensuring people in our regions have their say and then receive their fair share of the state's success.

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian
Premier



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

NSW is a regional jobs powerhouse, with the strongest regional jobs growth in the country. Whether in Murwillumbah, Moree, Mudgee or Merimbula, businesses across regional NSW have the confidence to invest, employ and contribute to their local communities.

Responsible economic management and good policies have helped make our state economy stronger than ever before. At the same time, we recognise that not every community has felt the benefits of these economic wins.

But our regional communities are fiercely resilient and innovative. As I travel the state, people always share their great ideas on how to bring jobs to regions, improve health services and best address the challenges facing our young people. When people talk, we listen.

This crucial input helped develop our Regional Development Framework, a plan for better decision making and a model for strategic investment for our regions. The **Regional Growth Fund** is our opportunity to deliver on the framework. It allows us to support innovative ideas so we can develop the major infrastructure that regions are calling for, and make local improvements to lift the quality of life in every town.

Whether it is upgrading telecommunications, accessing water supplies, or enhancing sporting venues — we will deliver so that businesses thrive. We will also enable regional communities to grow, draw in more investment and attract skilled workers. Not just for tomorrow, but for decades to come.

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

\$1.3 BILLION BOOST FOR REGIONAL NSW

2

Delivering on the Regional Development Framework

The NSW Government is investing an additional \$1.3 billion in regional infrastructure to support growing regional centres, activate local economies and improve services in communities, through the new Regional Growth Fund. Combined with the \$300 million to drive regional tourism through the Regional Growth: Environment and Tourism Fund this brings to \$1.6 billion the funding available for regional growth.

The NSW Government's Regional Development Framework provides an overall vision for the Regional Growth Fund. The framework establishes a plan for regional development over the next 30 years that ensures every community across the state benefits from NSW's economic success.

The Regional Growth Fund will invest in projects that facilitate regional development through six funds. These funds aim to enable essential infrastructure, support arts and culture, enhance and build sporting infrastructure, improve regional voice and data connectivity, invest in our mining-impacted communities, spur job creation and deliver local infrastructure.

Applications will be open to local government, regional organisations, industry and other community organisations.

A new approach to funding for the regions

Economic growth in the regions benefits the entire state. That's why the Regional Growth Fund is designed to ensure funding works for people in the regions, and that the funding process supports regional applicants.

The new approach to funding will be simple, transparent and offer greater support to applicants.

Focused on the needs of applicants not government

Applicants will be given support to develop their business cases, so they put forward the best proposal for the strongest projects and apply through the right channels.



REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

ECONOMIC ACTIVATION FUNDS \$1 BILLION		COMMUNITY AMENITY FUNDS \$300 MILLION
CONNECTING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES 	REGIONAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE 	REGIONAL CULTURAL FUND 
<p>To invest in communications infrastructure and deliver improved regional voice and data connectivity. This fund will build and upgrade mobile base stations, connect businesses to global markets and schools with innovative learning resources.</p>	<p>To foster the benefits of sport in communities. This fund will invest in new and existing venues to improve the participation and performance in sports at all levels.</p>	<p>To deliver investment to support bold and exciting regional arts and culture. This fund will encourage the rich diversity of the regions, build tourism potential and support young people.</p>
PROGRAM OPENS LATE 2017	PROGRAM OPENS JULY 2017	PROGRAM OPENS JULY 2017
GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES 	RESOURCES FOR REGIONS 	STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND 
<p>To develop the enabling infrastructure to grow regional centres. This fund will invest in the crucial projects needed to support job creation and economic growth in regional NSW.</p>	<p>To support job creation and economic growth in mining communities in regional NSW. This fund will help build infrastructure across health, water, road, education, tourism and CBD renewals to attract new business, tourists and residents.</p>	<p>To support councils and community groups in delivering crucial local infrastructure to improve quality of life. This fund will support local projects such as upgrades to community facilities and playgrounds.</p>
PROGRAM OPENS JULY 2017	PROGRAM OPENS JULY 2017	PROGRAM OPENS JULY 2017



4

A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

While significant investment in NSW's regions has already been made, there have been uneven levels of growth. Some regional centres are thriving while some face challenges of distance, structural change and population decline. The NSW Government's Regional Development Framework is a plan for better coordination and decision-making focused on:

1. providing quality services and infrastructure in regional NSW
2. aligning efforts to support growing regional centres
3. finding opportunities to activate the economic potential of local economies.

Access the Regional Development Framework by visiting www.industry.nsw.gov.au/invest-in-nsw/regional-opportunities/regional-development-framework.



A photograph of a long, straight road lined with tall, thin trees on both sides. The road has white dashed lines and a speed limit sign of 80 on the left. A large blue circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text.

**The Regional Development Framework
builds on the skills, natural resources
and endowments in each region to
address the issues communities face**

THE FRAMEWORK SUPPORTS:

- 1. accountability**
- 2. improving service delivery**
- 3. external transparency**
- 4. location-based policy decisions**
- 5. stronger coordination among government agencies**
- 6. maximising regional opportunities**
- 7. balancing outcomes against economic, environmental and social measures.**

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

6

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring our regional communities remain vibrant and thriving economic and social hubs. This means protecting our unique environments, delivering better health and education services and addressing social disadvantage.

Regional development is crucial to providing social and economic improvement. Communities can identify opportunities that:

- activate economic potential
- generate jobs
- attract business
- improve local infrastructure.

Regional development requires a shared effort from all tiers of government to coordinate and invest in the best economic opportunities that maximise growth.

As regional development occurs, the NSW Government must ensure all communities have the best access to essential services, supporting people's decisions to live and work in regional NSW.



Building on strong investment in regional NSW

The NSW Government is committed to delivering more for people in regional NSW. Significant spending (made possible by strong economic management and policy initiatives such as asset recycling) has already been made in regional areas to support economic growth. Restart NSW is funding investment in new infrastructure across the state — 30 per cent of these funds are dedicated to regional NSW.

Regional funds set aside through Restart NSW

Many of these funds have been set aside for projects, or have completed projects, in the areas of:



PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER RESTART NSW

Restart NSW funds are used for both NSW Government agency led projects and for local government projects in regional areas. Regional programs supported by Restart NSW include:



*The Illawarra Infrastructure Fund, Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Resources for Regions programs also include funding commitments to projects located in Newcastle and Wollongong.



MORE INFORMATION

www.nsw.gov.au/regionalgrowth

Contact us

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

©State of NSW 2017

Disclaimer

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the facts contained within this document are correct at time of printing, the state of NSW, its agents and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance or upon the whole or any part of this document.

Copyright notice

In keeping with the NSW Government's commitment to encourage the availability of information, you are welcome to reproduce the material that appears in this Regional Growth Fund document for personal, in-house or non-commercial use without formal permission or charge. All other rights reserved. If you wish to reproduce, alter, store or transmit material appearing in this Regional Growth Fund document for any other purpose, request for formal permission should be directed to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, 52 Martin Place, Sydney. You are required to acknowledge that the material is provided by this Regional Growth Fund document or the owner of the copyright.

