



Funding

Q: What is the total level of funding available for each project?

A: There is no set maximum grant value, but Round 2 can only award up to \$50 million across all projects.

Q: How long do councils have to confirm co-contribution funding after the announcement of successful projects?

A: Councils have 60 days to confirm funding after signing the deed.

Q: What is the expected co-contribution percentage from councils?

A: There is no fixed percentage for council contributions to projects, but they are strongly encouraged. For funded projects under Fixing Country Roads Round 1, the average council contribution was almost 20 per cent of the total project cost, with some councils contributing more than 50 per cent.

Q: Can I also apply for Australian Government funding?

A: Yes. Applicants are encouraged to also apply for Australian Government funding.

The three most relevant programs are:

- Bridges Renewal Programme (BRP)
- Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme (HVSP)
- National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF).

Australian Government programs will contribute a maximum of 50 per cent of the total project cost. For more information, including how to apply and funding conditions, read the Programme Criteria and Proposal Forms at www.infrastructure.gov.au.

Q: Where can I find more information about Country Bridge Solutions?

A: Country Bridge Solutions is a Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) program to deliver a standard bridge design making it easier and cheaper for NSW councils to replace old and worn structures.

To kick-start the program, RMS has developed an initial design for a pre-stressed concrete modular bridge system to deliver structures with a maximum span length of 12 metres; dimensions which suit the vast majority of old timber bridges in NSW.

Please contact CountryBridgeSolutions@rms.nsw.gov.au or call David Andrews at 02 6640 1300 for more information.

Completing the EOI

Q: Is there any limit on how many projects a council can submit?

A: No. Councils can submit as many project applications as they wish.

Q: Is it possible to have an extension of time for submitting the EOI?

A: The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest (EOI) is 11 December (11:59pm) and will not be extended. The EOI application is a scaled down version of the full application. The assessment panel is not expecting that all EOI applications will have confirmed project costs or outside funding, completed approvals or safety audits. The panel may contact the applicant for further clarification or information if required.

Q: What types of file can I upload to the online portal to support my application, and are there any size limits?

A: Councils can upload any file types to the online portal, and there are no size limits. If you are having any technical difficulties with the online application form, please email freight@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Q: How do joint applications from multiple councils work?

A: There are a number of options.

Ideally, councils should nominate a lead applicant to submit a single application on their behalf. The lead applicant could be an individual council, Regional Organisation of Councils or Joint Organisation.

If councils elect to submit individual applications, then as per the Fixing Country Roads Round 2 Program Guidelines applicants should state whether the project is related to, or dependent on, any other projects inside or outside their local government area under the 'Access and Productivity Benefits' criterion.

Q: What is the best way to put forward an application for a larger project?

A: Applicants may find it helpful to break a larger project down into smaller projects or components. State each component's benefits, breaking the BCR into sections. Then, rank the components in terms of benefit and priority, addressing the four eligibility criteria for each component. Finally, state the benefits and BCR of the project as a whole.

There is a limited pool of funding to be distributed across a number of projects in each round of Fixing Country Roads. Structuring an application for a large project as described above will allow the panel the option of funding either the whole, or a part of, a larger undertaking.

Q: What sort of infrastructure asset does Fixing Country Roads focus on? Are councils more likely to be successful seeking funding to upgrade a small bridge that supports multiple businesses or a major road going into a town?

A: There is no preferred type of infrastructure asset. Decisions on projects to be funded are based on how well the application addresses the four assessment criteria.

Q: Has safety data (injuries and fatalities) been included in Transport for NSW's BCR calculator?

A: Yes. However, project specific safety data (fatalities, injuries, as well as vehicle and property damage) are not automatically calculated in the workbook, but are considered as part of the assessment process.

Please include safety information in your application, as the Technical Assessment Panel will take it into consideration.

Q: Can councils use a different tool to generate a BCR?

A: Councils are required to use the Transport for NSW Cost Benefit Analysis tool to generate a BCR so there is consistency across Fixing Country Roads projects for the assessment process. Councils may choose to also include a BCR calculated using a different tool, but must supply the supporting data.

Q: What type of letters of support should be included with applications?

A: Support letters from industry, peak bodies and other stakeholders should articulate why the project is important and the specific benefits that the project would provide.

Q: What is the provision for applying for funding for project planning work? If you applied for planning work to be done would you need to submit a BCR?

A: Yes, you can apply for planning work, or for bridge and route assessments. Applicants should still calculate a BCR based on high level or a range of costs. For bridge and route assessments a description of the need for the assessment is sufficient.

Q: Can councils add functions to the NSW Freight Network Map on the Transport for NSW website?

A: No, but councils can print the map and modify it as needed.

Assessment

Q: Will joint applications be impacted by council amalgamations?

A: No, and joint applications are strongly encouraged. Funding is based on the quality of the proposed projects and how these address the assessment criteria, not council structure.

Q: Will councils that were successful in Fixing Country Roads Round 1 be less likely to receive funding in Round 2?

A: No, each project submitted for Fixing Country Roads Round 2 will be assessed on its merits.

Q: Are lower value projects less likely to be funded?

A: No, the best projects will be funded following an assessment against the Fixing Country Roads Round 2 funding criteria.

Q: Is the assessment criteria for Fixing Country Roads Round 2 applications the same as for Round 1?

A: Yes. Please refer to the Program Guidelines for more information on the assessment criteria.

Q: Are any of the four Fixing Country Roads Assessment criteria weighted more heavily than the others? Will this affect assessment of my project value?

A: There is no specific weighting. Eligible applications are assessed against all four of the criteria described in the guidelines:

- Access and productivity benefits
- Growth and economic benefits
- Strategic alignment
- Deliverability and affordability.

Please refer to the Fixing Country Roads Round Two Program Guidelines.

Q: Can councils have copies of previous successful council applications using best practice examples?

A: No. For confidentiality reasons TfNSW cannot share successful or unsuccessful applications. Councils are encouraged to refer to the Writing Grant Applications workbook that was supplied as part of series of workshops for councils in June, July and November 2015. A copy of the workbook can be obtained by emailing freight@transport.nsw.gov.au.