



# Restart NSW Fixing Country Rail 2019

Program Framework



**transport.nsw.gov.au**

**Tel** 02 8202 2200 **Fax** 02 8202 2209

18 Lee Street Chippendale NSW 2008

PO Box K659 Haymarket 1240

**Disclaimer**

While all care is taken in producing this work, no responsibility is taken or warranty made with respect to the accuracy of any information, data or representation. The authors (including copyright owners) expressly disclaim all liability in respect of anything done or omitted to be done and the consequences upon reliance of the contents of this information.

© **Transport for New South Wales**

Users are welcome to copy, reproduce and distribute the information contained in this report for non-commercial purposes only, provided acknowledgement is given to Transport for NSW as the source.



# Deputy Premier's message

---

## Fixing Country Rail

The NSW Government is supporting growth in our regions through significant and targeted investment in programs such as the Fixing Country Rail.

As I travel across the State, people approach me with innovative ideas to grow their region, from the smallest improvements to the biggest investments.

Through sound economic management and planning, the NSW Government is driving changes across the State and bringing these ideas to life.

We've unlocked \$87.2 billion to invest in infrastructure. We want to see that people living in communities of all sizes across NSW get their fair share, which is why we've dedicated \$10.2 billion to regional areas.

As part of our \$400 million Restart NSW commitment, our Fixing Country Rail program is designed to support the local improvements required to build an efficient freight transport network throughout the regions.

Funded projects could range from sidings and passing loops to network enhancements that allow longer trains to travel faster.

Each will have a positive impact on transportation costs and economic growth for NSW. The program is designed to support both small and large projects that reduce the cost to market for regional business and producers. For example, siding upgrades at Hermidale, Moree, Barellan and elsewhere, or rail upgrades between Junee and Griffith will improve the transport possibilities for grain growers in the region and reduce heavy vehicle movements. This will help improve safety and cut down wear and tear on roads for people driving to and from work.

Importantly, the program will also allow us to tackle some of the bigger upgrades to branch lines to open up large parts of the network to higher axle weights and longer trains to get produce from paddock to port more efficiently.

I look forward to seeing the implementation of innovative projects that tap the potential of regional NSW. I know that much more needs to be done to make our vision for Regional NSW a reality and this is only the beginning.



John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business

### What we are doing

- ✓ Restart NSW is the NSW's Government's dedicated infrastructure fund
- ✓ 30 per cent of Restart NSW funds are committed to projects in regional NSW
- ✓ Fixing Country Rail is part of Restart NSW's investment in building an efficient freight transport network in regional NSW

# Message from the Minister

---

The Fixing Country Rail program represents a \$400 million NSW Restart commitment to deliver a highly functional transport network across the state for moving freight in and out of regional areas. Fixing Country Rail has made available up to \$153 million for 23 projects across the network.

---

Projects funded under Fixing Country Rail include sidings, passing loops, reactivations, and network enhancements that lead to the use of faster, longer and heavier trains.

Improving rail efficiency with longer trains and increased carrying weights can reduce 'growers and producers' costs.

The Fixing Country Rail program provides tangible benefits to reduce the cost to market for regional businesses.

Since the Fixing Country Rail Pilot program back in 2016, we are successfully delivering 23 projects, including sidings at Condobolin, the reactivation of the Junee triangle and a section of line between West Tamworth and Westdale. The first two projects in Burren Junction and Moree are complete, and are already delivering benefits to growers and businesses. Further projects are due for completion over the coming months.

This program complements the successful \$543 million Fixing Country Roads initiative, which is all about improving freight movements between farms, key freight hubs like grain silos, saleyards, rail heads and distribution centres.

I am delighted with our achievements to-date from the Fixing Country Rail program and proudly announce its continuation, to further improve freight outcomes in regional NSW.



The Hon Melinda Pavey, MP  
Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight

# Contents

<b>Deputy Premier’s Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Message from the Minister</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
Program Overview	4
Strategic Framework and Objectives	4
Important Milestones	5
Assessment Process	5



## Program overview

Fixing Country Rail is a key NSW Government program for unlocking the economic potential of regional NSW. The program provides funding for rail infrastructure enhancement projects that eliminate connectivity constraints affecting regional freight rail services. Projects can include rail sidings, passing loops, network upgrades, reinstatement of non-operational lines and signalling system infrastructure.

The NSW Government has committed up to \$400 million in Restart NSW funding for the Fixing Country Rail program over multiple rounds. Fixing Country Rail aligns with and complements the Fixing Country Roads program in reducing the cost to market for regional businesses.

Fixing Country Rail 2019 is expected to provide up to \$150 million for projects that provide productivity and efficiency benefits for freight moving in and out of regional NSW.

## Strategic framework and objectives

Fixing Country Rail 2019 is a strategic rail program, with decisions on projects informed by the 'Regional Rail Corridor Strategy', the 'NSW Freight and Ports Plan' and other key rail network strategies developed by Transport for NSW.

Fixing Country Rail 2019 will focus on rail infrastructure enhancement projects that improve the movement of freight to and from regional NSW and may include:

- Passing loops and network upgrades that allow the use of longer and heavier trains or result in improved network usage and efficiency.
- Re-instatement of non-operational railway lines and construction of new lines.
- Sidings and connecting rail infrastructure to privately or local Government owned intermodal facilities.

- Signalling and coordination systems and infrastructure, provided these do or will form part of the state-owned network.

As with previous rounds and in line with Restart NSW fund criteria, projects considered are projects:

- Related to the movement of freight.
- Deliver sustainable growth and economic benefits.
- Publicly-owned.
- Have a Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) greater than 1.0.

Note: Projects cannot include asset maintenance, including deferred maintenance or non-rail components of terminal and other facilities (such as storage area hard standing, terminal facilities, and warehouses).

As with all Restart NSW fund programs, all projects need to demonstrate how they meet the statutory purpose of the Fund as well as deliver value for money. Value for money is a result of the benefits generated by the project relative to the costs. Specific to Fixing Country Rail, the projects must relate to improving the economic productivity of NSW through increasing the efficiency of freight movements.

The rail asset owner/operator/manager will deliver the projects, including:

- TfNSW for the Metropolitan Rail Network (MRN) and the Country Rail Network (CRN)
- Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) for the Defined Interstate Rail Network (DIRN), Hunter Valley Network (HVN), Southern Sydney Freight Line (SSFL) and the Metropolitan Freight Network.





## Important milestones

As part of Fixing Country Rail 2019, Transport for NSW will hold a series of consultations with key regional stakeholders to communicate the projects identified through its strategies and plans, and provide the opportunity for industry and councils to comment and put forward potential projects for consideration.

Transport for NSW will place its 'Regional Rail Corridor Strategy' on the website available at [www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au). That website also contains access to the NSW Freight and Ports Plan and other key rail network strategies developed by Transport for NSW.

Interested parties will be able to provide comments and submit suggested projects for consideration by emailing [freight@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:freight@transport.nsw.gov.au). Transport for NSW may contact those parties whose suggested projects align with the relevant rail strategies, to obtain further information.

A list of consultation opportunities, times and dates will be published on the website at [www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au).

Stakeholders are also welcome to contact Transport for NSW via [freight@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:freight@transport.nsw.gov.au) to discuss potential projects.

## Assessment process

All projects identified through the Regional Rail Corridor Strategy, the NSW Freight and Ports Plan and other key rail network strategies, or through suggestions made by third parties, will be assessed against the four program criteria, which are identical to Fixing Country Roads:

1. Access, productivity and safety benefits
2. Growth and economic benefit
3. Strategic alignment
4. Deliverability and affordability.

The projects will be assessed by an experienced panel comprising:

- Freight Industry Branch
- Finance and Investment, and
- Rail industry specialist(s).

Once projects are identified as being aligned to the relevant freight and transport strategies, and the Restart NSW Fund criteria above, Transport for NSW will publish the project list on the website at [www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.freight.transport.nsw.gov.au). This will provide visibility of the projects being considered and allow stakeholders the opportunity to identify other projects, to put forward for consideration.

This will make sure that projects address stakeholder needs and strategic requirements.

The projects will be prioritized by an experienced panel comprising:

- Freight Industry Branch
- Finance and Investment
- Rail industry specialist(s), and
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA).

At the conclusion, Transport for NSW will submit the prioritised list to Infrastructure NSW for relevant assurance and assessment requirements.

Once recommended and approved, the projects will be announced and a strategic and phased approach to improving the movement of freight by rail will be rolled out across regional NSW.







GrainCorp  
48209

CAUTION  
SWITCH  
POWER  
MACHINE  
IN DOOR