

## Who is eligible for funding?

The second round of Streets as Shared Spaces is open to all councils across NSW.

Individuals, chambers of commerce, and community groups are encouraged to work with their local councils if they would like to suggest projects.

## How much can councils apply for?

Councils may apply for up to \$500,000 for trials that test permanent changes that strengthen the amenity, accessibility and economic vitality of a high street and surrounding area.

## What do you mean by ‘trial projects’?

Trial or temporary approaches describe a city or citizen-led approach to neighbourhood building using short-term, low-cost and scalable interventions intended to catalyse long-term change. This approach allows communities and government to experiment and test changes to streets and places, before committing significant time and resources to permanent change. If the trial is successful and supported by the community, it may go on to become a permanent change. Sometimes referred to ‘tactical urbanism’, projects using a trial approach can use ‘lighter, quicker and cheaper’ approaches, for example widening footpaths with bolt-down timber decking or parklets.

## Why is NSW Government investing in projects that are only temporary?

Funding is for trials that test permanent changes. Using trial projects to test ideas before making permanent changes has been used successfully in Australia and overseas. It is also a way to get the community involved in shaping the future of their streets and urban centres.

## Why is the department championing streets and delivering a grant program for improving streets?

Quality public space is essential for quality of life and to support economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits, and streets are one of the most important forms of public space. The NSW Government is seeking to increase the amount of quality public space with trials that test permanent change to transform and re-energise our streets during the day and as part of the 24-hour economy, to get NSW moving again.

This program supports the Premier’s Priority of increasing the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes’ walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 per cent by 2023.

## How much funding is available for this program?

The total funding available for this program is \$20 million.

## Are councils required to contribute funds for their project?

No, this is not a matched funding grant program. When making a submission, councils will need to decide whether they add existing council budgets to these projects such as from infrastructure



contributions plans that identify projects suitable for this grant program, where the plan allows for apportionment of funds.

## Can councils use the funds over multiple projects?

Projects relating to more than one or multiple urban centres across an LGA are not eligible for funding. Councils may however propose to use funding across multiple locations within the same urban centre as long as they are related to/ connected to a specific high street, so that funding can be focused on delivering trial projects that test permanent change to high street environments that are impactful.

## How is Streets as Shared Spaces different from other programs currently available and can funding be pooled?

### Summer Night Fund:

- A program offering funding of up to \$15,000 to every council in NSW for free activations or events that enliven public spaces in the evening or at night, from 1 January until the end of April 2022.
- Councils seeking funding from the Summer Night Fund are welcome to apply for this program, however funding will not be able to be pooled as Summer Night Fund projects must take place from 1 January to 30 April 2022, whereas projects under this program must be constructed by September 2022.

### The Festival of Place Open Streets:

- A partnership program for Greater Sydney councils most impacted during the lockdown for councils to temporarily close streets to cars and open them on a day or series of days for demonstration projects involving community events and activities.
- Councils eligible for Open Streets are welcome to apply for funding under the Streets as Shared Spaces program, however funding will not be able to be pooled as Open Streets projects must take place by May 2022, whereas projects under this program must be constructed by September 2022.

### Places to Love program:

- A partnership program with pilot councils for trialling and testing public space concepts through temporary demonstrations to improve walkable access to, and the quality of, local public space.
- Pilot councils commencing projects in 21/22 are welcome to apply for funding under this program to extend on their Places to Love project.

## How has this program been funded?

This program is being funded as part of the NSW Government's Alfresco Restart Package.

## How and when should councils consult with their community on the project?

Councils are encouraged to work with communities and businesses, or reflect previous work with local communities and business, to generate and implement ideas.



Councils will be responsible for monitoring the project during the trial and may be required to adjust aspects of the project during the trial in response to feedback from the community and other key stakeholders. It is acknowledged councils may need to adopt different forms of engagement due to public health orders.

## What resources are available for councils to develop schemes?

The [DPIE website](#) contains a range of resources to support councils, including:

- Streets as Shared Spaces (Round 2) grant guidelines outline the process and what we are looking for.
- [Streets as Shared Spaces – Ideas and Opportunities](#)
- [Temporary street interventions – case studies](#)
- Great Public Spaces Toolkit including an [Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life](#) to build an evidence base and measure change is required to be used in the project evaluation

A **webinar** to introduce the program will be held on Monday, 18 October 2021. The webinar will introduce program, take councils through the EOI and application process, what types of projects can be funded, opportunities for partnerships, ideas and information on complementary Government initiatives. Register [here](#). The webinar will also be recorded and available on our website.

## When do Expressions of Interest close?

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) close at 4pm on Thursday 18 November 2021 (extended by one week from 11 November 2021).

## How many Expressions of Interest can council submit?

One.

## What is the difference between an Expression of Interest and an Application?

A two-stage application process has been designed in recognition of the significant resourcing required to prepare an application.

The EOI stage is open to all councils. Councils will be asked to articulate their proposal early in its development, to identify how it meets the program objectives and timeframes as well as likely transport approvals.

The application stage will only be open to councils that are shortlisted through the EOI stage. Shortlisted councils will then be asked to provide all information required to address the assessment criteria.



## How and who is going to make the decision about which projects will be funded?

EOIs will be assessed by the department and representatives from Transport for NSW and the Office of Local Government against the program objectives as outlined in the Streets as Shared Spaces (Round 2) grant guidelines.

Eligible applications will be assessed by an independent assessment panel of NSW Government representatives against the assessment criteria as outlined in the Streets as Shared Spaces (Round 2) grant guidelines.

## Can projects relate to land that is not council-owned?

Councils may apply for funding of activities that occur on roads or land that they do not own or manage, for example councils may explore murals on privately-owned buildings adjacent to a laneway or street. An in principle written agreement of the landowner must be provided as part of the application, with formal landowner's consent provided prior to funding release.

## What if there are no council meetings between now and the closing dates, and I need a council resolution to submit an EOI or application?

To enable councils to lodge within the timeframes, if needed, a letter of support from your General Manager can endorse the EOI or application pending council resolution. If successful, a satisfactory council resolution would become a condition of the grant, alongside other approvals.

## When will successful projects be announced?

Successful projects will be announced in March 2022.

## What is a Streets as Shared Spaces demonstration project?

Demonstration projects are selected exemplar projects where the purpose is to:

- Demonstrate a place-based approach that supports community recovery and resilience
- Show how public space evaluation tools can be embedded in the design process
- Demonstrate how Transport for NSW resources can support future planning

Demonstration projects are delivered in collaboration with council, including project design, implementation and evaluation, to ensure the best project outcomes are achieved for the local community and that the project exemplifies the program's objectives.

## How are Streets as Shared Spaces demonstration projects funded?

Demonstration projects may be considered if the program and will be funded through program underspend. The department is funding a demonstration project in Lismore City Council in Nimbin town centre.

## When will councils receive payments?

Payment of funding will be conditional on the funding being used only for the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement. Payment of funding will be made in



accordance with the milestones and payment schedule set out in the funding agreement and will be subject to compliance with the recipient's obligations. A final acquittal and project report will be required following completion of the project.

## What does it mean that trials must be live by September 2022?

The project is constructed and the trial has commenced on the ground, meaning it is available for community use.

## Can grant funding be applied to projects retrospectively if they are activated between November 2021 and March 2022 prior to signing the funding agreement?

No. Retrospective funding to cover any project component that is already complete/underway when a funding offer is made is not eligible for funding under this program.

## Who is responsible for delivery of the project?

This program encourages councils to consider partnerships and collaborations with other organisations, in support of taking a place-based approach. Notwithstanding any partnerships or collaborations, council will be required to acknowledge and agree that it is solely responsible for delivering and completing the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement, and will not be relieved of that responsibility because of any involvement with a third party (e.g. subcontracting, partnerships).

## Who do we contact if we have questions?

Contact the public space team via email: [PublicSpace@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PublicSpace@planning.nsw.gov.au)

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